

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY *Bulletin*

SEPTEMBER 1952

Bulletin No. 126

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George W. Peyton, Editor — Rapidan, Virginia

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

No. 2. Ben R. Massey, Box 406, Pompton Plains, New Jersey.

No. 5. Marvin C. Karrels, 3272 South 46th Street, Milwaukee 14, Wis.

The above are the only two districts now organized.

OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Sec. 2. That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the peony; to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor, or in any other manner.

MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development, are eligible to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send a check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The Society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members \$5.00 for one year.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. Back numbers will be charged for at \$1.25 a copy for the current years. Contact the Secretary for prices on other available numbers.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies." Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to George W. Peyton, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



SEPTEMBER, 1952 — NO. 126

President's Message

I was truly surprised to get a post card notice shortly after the annual meeting of the Society at Lake Mohawk, N. J., June 22nd, advising that I had been unanimously elected president for the coming year.

Had I been present at this meeting, I doubtless would have voiced a protest, but under the circumstances I cannot decline the confidence placed in me and will do all I can to carry out the work assigned me.

Due to the many years experience I have had as secretary of the society, I feel that I am in a position to qualify for the work, knowing as I do, the weak spots of the organization.

During the past nearly thirty years that I have been associated with the society our one weakness was lack of members. New ones were elected yearly but there were always a number who failed to carry on and were dropped from the society.

There is no more wonderful perennial for the garden and home than the peony and why our membership does not equal or surpass

other flower societies can only be attributed to the fact that we do not have the publicity nor the enthusiasm for our chosen flower that we should have. Sectional groups or regional groups can accomplish much and I urge that you make use of our regional plans and hold annual exhibitions in many sections of the country each year.

Our annual shows have been so arranged that they would cover a wide expanse of territory throughout the years, but in most cases they are too far distant for some peony lovers to attend. By encouraging local peony exhibitions in various points of the country we could greatly advertise the peony and get the publicity we need, but we can also encourage more enthusiasm among the many thousand flower lovers who do not fully realize the possibility of the peony.

As I have stated on numerous occasions, if each member would fully resolve to secure one or more members during the coming year, our membership would show a marked increase that would be most desirable for our future welfare. If you do not care to personally solic-

it the prospects, send our secretary the names and addresses of prospective members and we will make an effort to interest them and insure their cooperation in our work.

A large percentage of our income is derived from dues and with this money the expenses of the Society are taken care of. Naturally, without sufficient membership, we are greatly handicapped and cannot make the progress that we so greatly aim for. We have several projects for the betterment of the Society that are being held up due to this very reason. One of these projects is the new manual we want to prepare.

A new list of ratings is a *must* for the Society and will be undertaken next year. The new handbook, now in preparation, will also be something that is greatly needed and should be the means of securing several new members.

The Directors will meet at some central location during the coming winter and spend a day or two going over the important matters of

grave interest to the Society. At our annual meetings we do not have the time to give proper attention to many matters that require serious study. With this special meeting we hope to be able to accomplish a number of important decisions that will make for a better understanding of all concerned.

We want to work with you in every way we can and would appreciate your suggestions for the betterment of the Society.

We are organized solely to be helpful to the membership and to keep them reliably advised of new varieties, new or better methods of growing peonies; where exhibitions will be held, in fact anything of interest relative to the peony to keep our membership fully informed.

I can only repeat, I want your full cooperation and I can assure you of a profitable and interesting year ahead.

Very sincerely,

W. F. Christman, President.

GROWING PEONIES IN NORTHERN TEXAS

Dear Mr. Peyton;

In replying to your request for information on my varieties of peonies and any particular care given them, I really wonder if said information will be of value to you. I garden on such a small scale.

My yard is only 60x150 ft. and consists mostly of a rocky hillside, the rear being on three levels with rock retaining walls and the flower beds all of made soil. Here are planted my fifty varieties of herbaceous peonies, interspersed with best varieties of colorful iris, and in the last two weeks of April it is a spot of real beauty, visited annually by many people from surrounding territory.

This seems to be fine country for growing peonies with apparently no disease bothering them. Here we plant with the top eye only one inch underground. Always in preparing a hole, the soil is dug out to a two-foot depth and half a cup of bone meal inserted, with a light covering of soil so the roots will not rest directly on the fertilizer. Twice each year, once in early Spring and again in September, I put three tablespoonsful of bone meal around each plant. Some years I substitute a light dressing of barnyard fertilizer for the fall application of bone meal, but not too frequently.

Our long hot summers would

probably be a little hard on the peony plants, so I give them a thorough watering twice a week through the heated season. Also, after buds begin to appear in the Spring, I try to keep the soil fairly moist if we have no rain.

In the eight years which I have grown these herbaceous peonies, I have lost only one plant. Maybe that is because I try to stay with the "tried and true" varieties! Before making purchases, I study the catalogues at length, the description, and whether the particular variety under consideration is a thrifty grower, its rating if obtainable, and what other folks say of these varieties in the Peony Society Bulletin.

I find that in this extreme north portion of North Central Texas, the hot sun is a little ruthless on the delicately colored blooms of certain varieties, such as *Solange*, *Tourangelle*, *Jeannot*, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, and *Mme. Calot*, and so am going a little slow on further such purchases.

The following varieties bloom in abundance each season: *Mrs. Deane Funk*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Avalanche*, *Duchesse de Nemours*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Eduilis Superba*, *Pres. Wilson*, *Reine Hortense*, *Elizabeth B. Browning*, *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Mary Brand*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Karl Rosenfield*, *Felix Crousse*, *Florence Macbeth*, and *Grace Loomis*.

Four Japanese peonies which are fine in my garden are *Isani Gidui*, *Ama-no-sode*, *Nippon Gold*, and *Mikado*.

My one disappointment has been that I can't seem to grow tree peonies. Have had four and lost each one. Either the soil is wrong or my treatment is wrong, and I have never been able to get any satis-

factory information from the firms where I purchased these plants. But I learned early in life never to fret over things I couldn't have, so if my herbaceous peonies will just keep on growing and blooming for me, I will be happy. They are like treasured friends to me, whom I see not too often, and there's a thrill each time I go into the yard to look at them. In fact, I'm near Heaven when I walk in my garden of peonies and iris in the early morning when the dew is sparkling on those hundreds of gorgeous blooms!

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. J. E. Meador
Denison, Texas

NOTE: This article was received unsigned but we think the author's name is given correctly.— EDITOR.

PEONIES FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Harry L. Smith
Red Key, Indiana

The following varieties nearly always open in time for Memorial Day sales here in Red Key which is one hundred miles south of the Michigan line and 20 miles west of Ohio. Red: *Cherry Hill*, *Richard Carvel*, *Charles McKellip*, *Felix Crousse*. White: *Festiva Maxima*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *La Lorraine*. Blush: *Alice Harding*, *Kelway's Queen*, *Peach Blow*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Katherine Havemeyer*. The latter is sometimes quite pink. Pinks: *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Marietta Sisson*, *Pride of Langport*, (single). Many customers choose *The-rese* which is almost always open by the end of May.

There are many others, but these are dependable and are good blooms.

A Rambling Reporter Reports

Francis P. Tikalsky
La Grange Park, Illinois

From the time the early blooming peonies explode until the petalage of the very late ones curls up and withers, a real peony cashew seldom wanders from his floral domain, with the possible exception of racing to and from a flower show or to play hookey for a few fleeting moments to browse in the peony plantings in his or her immediate vicinity to see what's cookin'. This has been our procedure as long as the Mrs. and I can remember. This year an unusual windfall bounced right into our laps which enabled us to see in a relaxed manner, peony varieties in bloom in other fields and at the same time permitted us to view our own floral harvest. Allen Wild of Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri, extended an invitation to the Old Girl and me to spend time with them. We accepted the kind and generous invitation, packed up and left home. When we arrived at Wild's Peony Foundry we ran smack into a mob of flower lovers. 'Twas Sunday, May 18th, and it had rained heavily the day before, but these enthusiastic flower worshippers did not mind soiling their clothes nor their polished shoes, so the gooey quagmire did not dampen their enthusiasm, they just plowed through the mush to see the objects of their floral affections.

It is needless to say that our behaviour was the same. So we squeezed through the parked cars and away we went like a bull in a china closet, knocking down stems

and trampling many a beautiful bloom. We are as sane as most peony nuts can be and our one track mind focussed on beauty and beauty alone. Nothing else mattered. We made a few notes, but in our excitement neglected to make them when we should have.

We love to see our peonies in our gardens, so we are without question or doubt partial to good garden varieties. We saw a long row of *Goddess* in bloom and what a grand variety that one is! *Seashell* was as big as a good sized dinner plate and the compelling color was a bull's eye that attracted you to it. *Nancy Nicholls* was superb, huge and with a delicate blend of shades of pink.

We saw a plot of about five acres of *Myrtle Gentry*, what a breathtaking sight! A new dark red, *Highlight*, was singled out by all visitors as something unusual. The hybrid, *Chocolate Soldier*, was perfection. *Tempest* was seen blooming in sprays, the lateral buds having the same characteristics as the terminal bud.

We both hope our memories will retain and record forever the beauty that we saw. We saw some very bad garden habits on varieties like *Grace Loomis*, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Mother's Day*, *James Pillow*, *Marilla Beauty* and others. Since both of us just loathe these weak-legged, sparse foliated ones, we coined a word for them—*Phonus Bolognus*. One could write a thick volume on only the fine things we saw, but

if we do not move along with the rest of our experiences, this will get to be one.

Our wanderings in this Mecca of Peonydom was over one hundred thirty-five acres and we looked every variety straight in its mug and assayed our findings. These 135 acres are not in one plot, but are in about seven different locations, the farthest one being about four miles from headquarters.

We took a sneak look into the Wild seedling bed and looked over the Nicholls seedlings, which are still identified by numbers only. One thing can be said and that is that many surprises remain in store for the peony lovers. If some of the unusual blooms that we saw in these two fields, were typical, then, boys and gals, as Al Jolson would say, "You ain't seen nothin' yet."

One very interesting thing we saw, was the hybridizing that was being done. Dr. Alice Nightingale (Aunt Alice), a very apt and notable scientist in the world of botany, was busily engaged in making crosses, hoping to attain a good yellow peony. During over two weeks she made five hundred crosses, which is a man's sized job, regardless of what standard of measure is employed. This is quite a frontal attack on the ever elusive yellow peony and it is hoped that Dr. Nightingale's work will be fruitful.

One of the major surprises that we encountered was to see some of the varieties that are perfect duds in the latitude of Chicago, bloom freely three hundred fifty miles south. Heretofore, we always attributed the free opening, in the Minneapolis area, of hard-headed varieties, to the longer period of sunlight that prevails further

north. Now we are confused. Will some one unconfuse us?

What was the quality of blooms in Sarcoxie? When seen in the fields they looked good and very little shy of what we see in our fields here, if we do not resort to artificialities. I'm wondering how they would look on the show table if they were given the magic touches so often employed by "Sherlock Holmes" Gayle and "Blimp 'em up" Karrells.

The cut-flower peony business that is prevalent down at Wild's Emporium is indeed interesting. Our rough guess would be that a hundred people are employed during cutting time. Timing and weather conditions are important factors. This personnel goes along without too much direction and are well coached. When we left, six freight cars of cut peonies had already been shipped. There were still forty thousand dozen in storage to be packed and shipped. There are many small orders that are handled separately and shipped by air mail and express. When we left Wild's a large force was still cutting in the fields.

After a week's sustenance of a one hundred percent peony diet, we left with Jim Wild for Kansas City where the Greater Kansas City Iris Society was holding its Fifth Annual Flower Show in cooperation with the Peony Growers of that region. Allen Harper, Vice Chairman of the Show Committee and a well-known grower around these parts, roped in A. M. Riley of Independence, Missouri, Les Foster of York, Nebraska, and myself to act as judges for the peony part of the show. A report of this show is published in the June Bulletin.

In the past two or three years, much attention has been focused

on the "Electric Current Twins" A. C. and D. C. (*Ann Cousins* and *Doris Cooper*). They gave a good account of themselves this year, each winning in its respective class. In addition to being the best double white in the show, *Ann Cousins* won the honor of being the best flower in the entire Peony Show, beating a superfine bloom of *Solange*, entered by White Cloud Farm. The judges could not reach a common agreement, so we had to solicit the aid of two iris judges, who both voted for *Ann Cousins*. This was the first time the good wife and I had ever seen a bloom of *Ann Cousins*. We were quite impressed with it. There is an orderly arrangement of the translucent petals which have a mild waxy sheen. The form as we saw it, was perfection, lots of "umph," with refinement, grace and charm comparable to *Le Cygne*. If it performs as consistently in our particular and other areas, then all of us peony minded folks will have a big problem on our hands, how to pry the good woman loose from a few bucks, or agree to forego buying a new winter coat so it can be acquired.

Three days after we returned home, a gigantic, cup-shaped pink single, *Saul*, opened and initiated our peony season. Simultaneously with that event, we received a letter from Byron Gist of Amarillo, Texas, stating that he and his wife were gradually coming north with the peony season and had planned to pay us a visit. This fellow, a retired farmer, and his wife, a former school teacher, planted their first peonies a few years ago. They were so elated by the results that they decided to increase their planting extensively. There is a man and his wife in the

golden age of life, starting on a new adventure, when most people in this period are reconciled to mold and squeak away in the rocking chair. Both have the nerve and imagination of a couple of healthy kids hell-bent on misadventure. They both reminded me so much of the characters in Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Mr. Gist had grounded himself in color photography and with good equipment was recording in color the best things they saw. I viewed a few color records and if this hombre does not enter some of them in our Fifth District Color Slide Contest, down will go his dog house. While Byron was taking color shots, his wife was making elaborate notes of everything. It was a pleasure to see them serving their apprenticeship so well. When they left they could identify most varieties in the fields very well.

Down in the Panhandle of Texas it gets hotter than the hinges of Hades and dry as a bone. Most of us folks who grow peonies further North, would poo-poo any one who tried to grow them there. But with the scholarly and thorough manner in which they are going into this adventure, they cannot fail. In a short time an article should appear in our Bulletin "How to Grow Peonies in Texas." Good luck, Mr. and Mrs. Gist!

We took the Gists to Art Murawski's field where we ran into Dr. Sanford Hyde assaying Art's beautiful harvest. We saw *Margaret Lough* putting on a grand show as she always does around here. *Le Cygne* was perfection and so was *Minnie Shaylor*. Good old *Philippe Rivoire* was holding his head high and proud with magnificent blooms. We were treated to a sight

when we saw some gigantic blooms of *Ethel Mars*. Somewhere we have read that this is a semi-double. We could find no stamens at all. *Nick Shaylor* was good as it always is. *Pres. F. D. Roosevelt* ordinarily just so-so, was grand in its unusual pink hue. There were many other fine ones in the scintillating mass of vibrant color.

We then left for Mission Gardens where we found Will Christman looking fine and full of pep. We chatted with him for a while and finally made our way out of a ring of folks that were seeking his counsel on peony problems. Their field was at its peak. We never saw a more beautiful *Miss America* nor *Ave Maria*. *Nancy Nicholls* was exquisite and so was *Laura Magnuson*. We were surprised to see a number of hybrids blooming beautifully. Who said all hybrids bloom early?

Two days later, we left with the Gists for Rockford to visit with Roy Gayle, who sprouted some foliage on his chin. Rockford is celebrating its centennial and the boys are using the event as an excuse not to shave. Later when we went to dinner, Roy denuded the facial fuzz. Roy's garden was at its best. It could not have been better. He grows 'em on at least four foot centers which lets the plant develop without deformation that some times results from overcrowding. We spotted a row of *Goddess* nearly a block away. This is a wonderful Jap. It holds together as the season develops and does not fall apart too easily. Another sensation out in a mass was *John Howard Wigell*, which has beautiful coloring in the deep pink class. It is a landscape variety and is a must for anyone who wants a peppy accent to their gardens. Everything in Roy's gar-

den appeared to be qualified to enter a high class show. Here, too, we found some wonderful *Philippe Rivoire*. The blooms were huge and and in magnificent form and were being held up vertically. His *Le Cygne*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Krinkled White* were beautiful, ready to challenge the best. *Auguste Dessert* was a blaze of snappy and compelling color in a mass. You could see it blocks away. We saw *Lois Q. Gayle* and this one really moved us. It was large with wonderful form with delicate blendings of pink shades. Where has this beauty been hiding all these years? Watch this on. We got a peek at a new variety, named in honor of Roy G. Gayle, which was a breath-taker. It is bagged for the big show and perhaps some will get an eyeful of his huge, well-formed, delicate, appealing pink at Lake Mohawk.

While we were in Rockford, we, the Gayles, Gists and Tiks, connived to barge in on Mr. Delbert Alexander, who is known around that locality for the wonderful *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* that he grows and shows so well. Well, we saw some fine ones again and also nice blooms of *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* and *Doris Cooper*. Too bad that the gardenhabits of *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* and *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* are not too good.

The next morning the Gists left via auto, for their first trip to the National Show. They were going via Marvin Karrel's, W. A. Alexander's and any other peony gardens that do not lie too far from the main road to the Show. We hope that what they see at the big show will inspire them still further, if that is possible.

During the peony blooming season, I acted as host for the Chicago Horticulture's one week dis-

play of peonies, This was not a competitive exhibition. Commercial growers and amateurs contributed blossoms to the show. About three thousand people dropped in to see the show which was held in Chicago's downtown business section. Most of them came during noon hours. Many questions were asked of me and it should be emphasized that much missionary work remains to be done to educate the general public on the Peony and its culture. A few of the questions asked were: Do you take peonies into storage in fall? Are there any peonies that repeat their blooming period in the fall? Why do peonies change colors? I bought a white and it blooms pink for me. Can I buy a blue peony?

Towards the end of the show, Mr. Elmer Claar brought in some hybrids, species, trees and *albiflora* varieties and gave a fine lecture before an audience of about 150 people. A question and answer period followed the talk and the peony folk, hungry for information, kept Mr. Claar busy answering their questions for a good hour. Talks like his help immensely to sell the

public on the peony. Much more of this should be done.

What was our peony harvest from our own garden? Not too good. We had three successive days of 90 degree temperatures and a couple of showers at the wrong time. But, in spite of this, we had many good blooms. *Margaret Lough* was about one of the best, followed by *Nick Shaylor*, *Elsa Sass*, and *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt* in order of quality. *Mattie Lafuze* was a humdinger on a three year old plant. This one, in addition to being a fine show flower, has excellent garden habits. I had fine blooms from *Blanche Elie*. *Carolina Moon* is, I think, the best near-yellow. It was good this year. *Seashell* was perfection and *Mildred May* was the center of attraction for the folks that like to fool around with floral arrangements. As I write I am still looking at two fine blooms of *Moonstone* which seem to hold up well in water.

Well, this ends the report of a rambling reporter who with his wife got into the refuge of their home before the white coated boys snagged them.

The Annual Meeting

Cochran House, Newton, N.J.

June 21, 1952

In the absence of the President, the meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman, Frank E. Moots of Newton, Kansas, there being a quorum present.

Varying the regular order of business all present were asked to

stand for one minute of silent respect to the three prominent members of the Society who had died during the preceeding year: *Lyman D. Glasscock* of Elwood, Ill.; *Ernest I. Stahly*, Goshen, Ind.; and *George C. Thurlow*, West Newbury, Mass.

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with and they were adopted as published in Bulletin No. 122, September, 1951.

To avoid the rush of business near the end of the meeting the election of directors was next taken up. The terms of seven directors expired with this meeting. One, Marvin C. Karrels had been already re-elected by his Regional District. Mrs. Earl W. Knapp asked that she be relieved of her duties so no director was chosen to fill her place as there were already two directors from her district, the Fourth. The names of the five others were presented to the meeting without further recommendation and on motion made and seconded, L. W. Lindgren, Frank E. Moots, George W. Peyton, Winthrop H. Thurlow and Neal R. van Loon were re-elected to serve three years.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were next presented by these officers and adopted as read.

Here a rising vote of thanks was given Rev. Neal R. vanLoon and the Sussex County Peony Society for their labors in staging such an outstanding show and also to the Lake Mohawk Country Club for the use of their Club House.

Under reports of Committees, Mr. Karrels, reporting for the Color Slide Committee, told us he had succeeded in getting together a number of good slides but needed many more to complete the collection. An appeal was made to have good slides donated to give us two or more sets for rent to those who may wish to use them.

The Manual Committee, Peyton reporting, has made little progress as yet, mainly due to the lack of funds with which to proceed. The proceeds of the Peony Auction

which was held at this meeting will be applied to the Manual Fund and also those from the Auction held in Sarcoxie in 1950.

Under unfinished business the matter of the Symposium was discussed. Many expressed the opinion that it should be on a regional basis rather than country wide as the performance of varieties in different sections varies so much. No definite action was taken. As Mr. Moots had to leave Mr. Karrels took over at this point.

Under New Business the Secretary brought up the matter of a small handbook to supply a need for definite, but brief information on planting, propagation, care etc. of the Peony. After considerable discussion it was voted on motion of Mrs. William Goode Robinson, seconded by Mr. Stollery that such a handbook as outlined by the Secretary be published provided enough pre-publication orders can be secured to insure its success.

The question of a place for holding the next Annual Meeting and Show was then brought up. Due to the fact that it had seemed impossible to secure enough cooperation from the local growers and flower clubs around Indianapolis, which had been scheduled to hold the show in 1953, it was necessary to secure another place. The matter was left in the hands of the Directors.

A request from the Royal Horticultural Society of England for fifty roots for a test garden at their trial grounds, Wisley, was presented and growers were asked to contribute the roots.

On motion the meeting then adjourned.

NOTE: The above taken from a stenographic report by Mrs. Gladys Anderson.

GARD-Em-KEY

Pressing on to better things

President: Ben R. Massey, Box 406, Pompton Plains, N. J.

Vice-Pres.: J. V. Rodimer, Newton, N. J.

Secretary-Treas.: John Rick, Reading, Pa.

Directors:

J. F. Styer
Concordville, Pa.

Louis Smirnow
Elm Court Road
Sands Point,
L. I., New York

Martin Viette
Hicksville
L. I., New York

Mrs. J. C. Losey
Newton, N. J.

Mrs. Jacob Tanis
Augusta, N. J.

WHAT'S COOKING IN REGION NUMBER TWO?

Neal R. van Loon
Newton, N. J.

Honorary Directors:

Mrs.
Harry F. Little
Fine View, N. Y.

Prof.
A. P. Saunders
Clinton, N. Y.

John C. Wister
Swarthmore, Pa.

PUBLICITY by Ben Massey

All of the Shows for 1952 are in the bag. Long will we remember those with whom we worked—new acquaintances made and old friends revisited. Surely the great National Show at Mohawk set the pegs forward when it comes to showmanship of that bloom of blooms—the pecny. However, let the Sage of

Rapidan tell the world about that Show.

Did we learn something constructive this season about Peony Shows? Will we use that something next time? All of us, no doubt, could make a sizeable list. My first on the list and pet gripe is the matter of publicity.

—{12}—

It seems to me we have hardly scratched the surface on this important subject, both for our Shows and our Society in general. We must realize the average person, yes the average gardener in this country, doesn't even know the American Peony Society exists. A director of publicity should be an important officer in our National Society (the job and not the title is important—if it suits better to call him something else, let it be).

Publications, radio stations and other media will use a lot of material, no charge, but someone must get it to them. A lot of material is in the minds and files of the peony people but someone must get it out.

That someone should be the director of our publicity. One radio station man, who gets around a good deal in garden and flower subjects, told me our 1952 National Show was the best kept secret of the year. Yes, an active publicity man might even suggest our old Bulletin have a new shirt or cover. It is jolly well time that it should have one. Four or five decades is long enough for anyone to wear the same shirt.

If we are to have a satisfactory membership, this move is essential I am sure. Maybe one of our feminine fans who has a flare for publicity could be persuaded to take on the job. How about it?

IN RETROSPECT ❖ THE '52 PEONY SHOW

NEAL R. VANLOON

Newton, New Jersey

Flower Shows are supposed to make more gardeners and to make those who already garden more ardent. If they fail in this they are not worth the time and trouble that goes into them. All of you who are reading this little piece, I'll wager, or nearly all, got the bulk of your inspiration to garden and to grow peonies from shows or from gardens you have visited, rather than from a printed page.

Considerable mail has come lately full of complimentary words and not a few expressions of amazement concerning the beauty of the show. For these we are naturally grateful. For this hombre, however, after all the loss of sleep and appetite and after all the worry and anxiety which becomes finally a nightmare and an obsession, this

show was not "the modified rapture" I had hoped for, but "a rather glorious flop."

In the hopes that an appraisal by me of the details might help some one who plans to organize a local show, or entertain the national, I am going to make a few suggestions. The many little details which added together, should have made for a successful show, did not all materialize and those that did were not all we thought they should be.

Worth While Innovations

The organ music and the singing was a fine additional treat to all.

The plan of cumulative viewing, while it did not work out exactly as we hoped, is certainly worth any committee's consideration. The idea behind it of course, is to have the public view the best part of the

show last rather than first, or any old time.

I am convinced the small number of classes which we featured, forty-eight to be exact, is a mighty good thing. It is just a plain and simple statement of fact that no one can take in and digest one of our big shows. If it were left to me I would have our shows a good bit smaller yet, and ours was a comparatively small show. For lack of a better criterion, we judge other people's tastes by our own. I would not give a picayune to see a great coliseum full of peonies, half of them mediocre or worse. Such shows don't do the peony any good and I for one feel sorry for my poor tired legs and eyes. Put on a moderately sized show of nothing but top flight stuff and people will go away all fired up, not wilted down, and will begin to send for lists and will start throwing their money around.

Our "East-West" class was a fine thing and I think should be included in all future National schedules. I hope the Twin-City people feature it in 1954.

We Easterners may as well take our thrashing first as last.

"Boost Your State" too, brings in the intersectional flavor. The Provinces, of course, should be included.

Low position for the blooms is a splendid thing. Peonies do indeed look upward rather than outward. If you can't look a fine peony in the face you don't really see it at all. Five steps are too many. It makes, we found, too much of a reach when staging. Even numbers are not artistic so three steps are clearly indicated. No flower hides any other and all can be carefully studied and enjoyed. Herr Karrels had his Gold Medal display of fifty

or more in five step position and it was the best Gold Medal group I ever saw. What a feat to bring such a number half way across the continent and have them in such shape!

The sleeves over the bottles were a real contribution to the neatness of the show. To prepare 2500 or more of these is a chore but many hands make light work and when the effect is noted with satisfaction the work is forgotten.

Place cards for the various classes placed high and bold is a great help toward the enjoyment and appreciation of visitors.

Separating the blooms of the various classes by the use of ribbons makes for a neat job.

New burlap covering the display racks does much toward the making of a beautiful show.

Although it was asking a lot of our three judges to cover the entire show I felt it was sound logic to have just one panel, and this panel in our case was of real blue ribbon qualifications. Not one murmur of complaint concerning their decisions was heard. Furthermore, prizes found a broad base of division and no one person dominated the winnings.

When people say it is the seal or the ribbon the exhibitor is after and then come out with a schedule with no worth while prizes it is only a case of lazy people yielding to the temptation not to get up a prize pool and then talking through their hat to try to rationalize their sin. It costs good money to attend and display at shows. There should be a sporting chance to win something substantial. It is easy to get up an attractive prize list if you are not afraid of a little work.

Every show of any size should try to make a little money. This

comes in mighty good the following year when it can be plowed under. It may make a crop of new recruits.

The '52 affair will show a profit of close to one thousand dollars. Since the Regional treasury and the County treasury dumped in all they had, the share of the A. P. S. will be rather less than a third. Their share will yet be very much worth while.

Our National Show should never cost the A. P. S. anything in my humble opinion.

On the debit side, our entry cards were far and away too large. I could not see this until an exhibitor told how the sight of all those cards, so large, almost overwhelmed him. The cards could be much smaller. I do maintain that the sight of your name correctly spelled out on a six pitch typewriter upon your entry card makes you feel mighty proud even if it receives no seal.

The use of twistums to attach the entry cards to the entries seemed at first to be a rather good idea but I think they were more or less a nuisance.

Points Worth Thinking About

I heard no remarks favorable or otherwise about our lighting but I am persuaded that the plain white flood lamps recommended to us by General Electric are about as good a thing as can be had for effective lighting. At a distance the angle of their coverage is such as not to meet your eyes and when you get under them you are looking down at the flowers and you do not see them. The colors of our flowers in 1952 seemed as true by night as by day.

Flower buds were cut, by nearly all of us, much too soon. With our cool damp weather very few peonies would have become fully blown had it not been for a splendid crowd.

Body heat did the trick. Flowers opening up the afternoon of the second day is not so good!

A late show date is always a good thing. Our Canadian friends were able to get in some good licks. Had I been in a position to vote for Popularity Queen, I think I should have had a vote for Mr. Stollery's *Josette*. Man Oh man! What a heart-breaker!

We need more exhibitors. I think we should be allowed only one entry to a class. It would go for a finer show. More members of more families should start a small patch of their own—and exhibit. Then, added to the delight of cudgeling the daylight out of your neighbors, or, added to the profit and wisdom that comes from contemplating or licking your wounds, comes the pleasure of a good intramural fight.

All in all, we must confess that, although it was no unqualified success, we do experience considerable satisfaction.

You can't say we did not try, Can you?

OLD BULLETINS

Since publishing the list of old Bulletins on hand in the June, 1952 issue, we have sold a number and have on hand some orders for numbers of which we have none.

We need copies of all from No. 1 to No. 99. We have no copies at all of Nos. 15, 64, 71, 76, 85 and 109, all of which are required to complete even one set for our files.

Whenever we can supply any back numbers from No. 1 to No. 99 the price will be one dollar each, except Nos. 97, and 98 which will be fifty cents and also the price on those from No. 100 to 108 will be fifty cents and from Nos. 111 to 125, 25 cents each.

Black Prince

FRANCIS P. TIKALSKY

La Grange Park, Illinois

A number of years ago a garden-er friend of mine, with whom I ex-changed ideas and garden stock, related to me an incident which seems to become more important with me as time goes on. Since I think that others may derive bene-fit from what he related to me I am passing along in the following my friend's narration as closely as I can recall it to the readers of our bulletin.

"Do you see that large white house on the other side of the street with those stately elms in front of it? Well, Lil lived there. Lil was an old negress in her late eighties. She had a charming per-sonality and was the only Negro who ever lived in this town. She was extremely pious and religious. Her faltering footsteps brought her past my home on her way to and from church for many years. As she passed she would graciously bid the time of day, give compli-ments on the surroundings and struggle along at her uneven gait. When the flowers were in bloom she would hesitate, sometimes halt and look wistfully at my garden array from a remote distance on the sidewalk.

"One day I asked her to come into my garden and she shuffled along and seemed to take a pano-ramic view of things in general. Suddenly she appeared to see some-thing that froze her in her tracks. She moved up to a tall, dark, sin-gle red Peony that was in perfec-tion of bloom. 'Why,' she said, 'this

reminds me of Sam. Yes, just like Sam.' She stood admiring it for a while and thanked me graciously and left. The next morning she passed and said, 'Can I see Sam again?' I assured her that she cer-tainly could and was free to walk in any time she felt like it. She visited until the petals fell off this tall, dark, single red Peony. After that it was the same routine again of 'Good morning, Nice Day' and with the same pleasant smile.

"The next spring when the blos-soms came, she looked again for this tall, dark single red Peony. When this plant was in bloom she seemed to tarry longer than before, admiring the flower. I could see that the past year had etched quite brutally into her vitality and she seemed to sway when she stood for a while. I asked her to sit down on a lawn chair in the shade of a lilac bush. As she relaxed she seem-ed to talk more freely and said, "That tall dark red flower looks like Sam. Sam and I, you know, were on the same plantation work-ing for a fine master. Sam was my Black Prince, just like your Prince Charming that white folks read about in your fairy tales, only Sam was real. The old master gave him lots of learning too. Well Sir, we got married and about a year later that terrible war between the North and South came along. Our master went to fight with the South. One evening, Sam said, "Lily, Abraham Lincoln needs me to fight and I'm going to go to free the black men."

I told him not to go, so we went to our preacher and asked him whether Sam should go. He said, "The Lord is always on Lincoln's side, by all means go and fight for the Lord and Abe." So he left to fight for the Lord and Lincoln.

"Soon we heard that our Master was killed and his wife sold the plantation to her brother. This man was mean and said Sam belonged to him and when he returned he would kill him for running away. So every morning and night I prayed to the Lord that Sam would never return, and the Lord answered them because Sam never came back. Then the war was over and my master kicked me out and said, "On your way nigger." I went north and I worked for the grandfather of this man I'm living with now. Then I worked for his son and then his grandson. I'm too old and can work no more, but folks are kind to me. A few years ago my benefactor went to Washington to see if he could find out something about Sam. Well, sir, he did. The government said that he died a brave man in the last big battle of the war, and when they found out that I was his widow they gave me a good pension. Some day, you bet, I'm going to meet Sam, my Black Prince. There's no two ways about that. No sir. Yes, that flower there is Sam all over.' I told her that this tall red single Peony stood up better than any similar variety in the wind, rain and sun and that this blossom lasted a very long time. She replied excitedly, 'Why, didn't I tell you, that's Sam, make no mistake about that.'

"Late that fall the party with whom she was staying moved away and for two years I didn't hear a word about Lil. Then I received this letter from her old benefactor

and here is what it said: '... It is with regret that I inform you that old Lil passed away quietly last week. She received the best care that the medical people could give her and we are more than confident that she finally met Sam. During the last two months of her life she asked whether a plant like the one she called Sam, that grew in your garden, could be planted on her grave when she passed on. Please let me know the variety and where I can get a plant like it.'

"Well, the tall red single Peony that this Negro woman fancied so much is called *Black Prince* and it now grows where she asked that it might grow."

VARIETIES WANTED

We receive a number of inquiries for varieties that are not commonly listed. Lately one writer wishes to locate a red Japanese type peony named *Charlemagne*. He says he saw it in a lady's yard and she told him it came from a certain firm in Pennsylvania whose name he did not mention. He said the firm no longer had it. Has anyone heard of it and where it may be obtained? The only peony of that name we have any record of is a white double introduced by Crousse in 1880 rated 5.3 and discarded.

Another wishes *Fraicheur*, Le-moine 1914, 8.2 cream double, and *Sully Prudhomme*, Crousse 1898, 8.2, pink to white double. Let me know if you have them or can tell me where to get them.

Also, does anyone have Mr. Auten's *Day Dream*, a fine pink Jap which he has lost entirely?

Does anyone have *Candidissima*, Calot 1856, 7.1 white?

Spreading Peony Fever

W. A. Alexander

Eowling Green, O.

What makes a Peony fan? How do we get that way? What brings about this condition, sometimes called Peony fever, in an otherwise normal individual? It is utterly incomprehensible to people who have no interest in flowers. By those who have the infection, it is considered a highly desirable condition, a beneficent malady, which should be spread far and wide.

Well, I don't profess to know the answer—I don't think anyone does. But of this I am sure: It's catching! It's a contact disease and requires close contacts to insure a real honest-to-goodness case. Triple exposure is the way most likely to succeed. First, exposure to the matchless beauty and charm of the flower. Many flower lovers, even garden club folk, have never seen high class peonies at their best.

The second is exposure to authoritative information about types, varieties, culture—all that is needed for intelligent selection and growing them successfully. Third is exposure to the enthusiasm of a real peony fan. Enthusiasms are of themselves contagious.

It was this line of thinking that led me to try an experiment last summer which resulted much as I hoped it might and which I expect to repeat whenever I have the opportunity. I know that many of the Society members can duplicate or better my efforts to inoculate people with the virus of Peony fever. If you are a commercial grower, you will be giving your

business a boost, too. Here is the scheme.

Get yourself on the program of a garden club meeting during or a little after the Peony season. Bag a few buds of each variety you have, or at least the better ones, and handle them exactly as you would for a major show, that they will be in top condition for the club meeting. Give the audience a brief talk on types, varieties, etc., using good specimens for illustration, and conclude with an account of how Peonies are handled for exhibition. Then stage your show by having a "Peony Grab Bag."

Have each person select a bagged flower without looking at the name tag. Each will have a different variety. At a given signal they start to remove the bags and then the fun begins. There are ohs! and ahs! and squeals of delight from the women, and from the men, masculine equivalents of the same. Of course, some flowers will have failed to open and others may shed petals; so be prepared with plenty of substitutes. Have enough containers so each flower can be shown singly. I used the old-style cone-shaped, cardboard milk bottles. They are light in weight and easy to carry but difficult to find now.

Next have each person vote for the red he likes best, likewise white and pink, to set up the court of honor. From these have them choose the popularity queen. Commercial growers can make it even more exciting by offering prizes

for those fortunate enough to draw the court of honor flowers. I had counted on giving but one prize (popularity queen) but hastily added two more when I saw the interest and excitement.

In retrospect, I appraise the results as follows: Those club members saw, many of them for the first time, some good peonies in top show condition. That was exposure number one. Second, they got a bit of good advice (I hope) about selecting varieties and growing the flower; not much in the time at my disposal, but perhaps enough to start them on the right track. (Second exposure). The third, enthusiasm, was largely self-generated after I had set the stage and started the play. One could sense something of the feelings experienced by even veteran showmen when, with some trepidation, they remove the bags from

flowers they have carried hundreds of miles to a major show and find them in prime condition, ready to give all comers a tough battle for the coveted blues and purples.

Anticipation, surprise and the spirit of competition, with everyone participating, combined to make it a lot of fun. Critical examination of the flowers helped to fix in mind variety names and descriptions. Tangible results? Not much as yet except a lot of compliments on the program, if compliments can be so considered. But I look for some delayed reactions and hope sometime to be able to report several new members for the Society from that group. Who knows, some may even come down with a genuine case of Peony fever for which there is no known cure and none wanted.

THE 1952 SEASON IN CHICAGO

E. C. Bills
Chicago 40, Ill.

Each Spring I look forward to a visit to Art Murawska's River Drive Peony Gardens in River Grove, Ill. and am always repaid many times over by the gorgeous display he puts on with his marvelous seedling iris and peony blooms.

Many of his own originations and just about all of the new varieties and the most popular of the older ones may be seen. They are grown as all peony lovers strive to grow them but comparatively few of us are able to attain such near perfection.

This year I journeyed to River Grove in late May to view Art's seedling iris and again in June for

his peony show. The first reaction I experience, upon entering his gardens, is to the evidence of good culture, the healthy and vigorous appearance of his stock. It inspires a person to greater efforts and sets an example of what may be accomplished by proper methods and a little extra labor.

This year Art is very enthusiastic over a sport from Kelway's Glorious, which appeared in his garden and which is a marked improvement on the original. This new one has dark green foliage, larger leaves, stiffer stems and better growing habits than the old variety and Art is looking forward to a great future for his new find.

I wish him luck. It looks good.

My own planting at Crystal Lake, Ill. produced one of the best crops I have had in about twenty-five years of growing peonies. The season was shortened somewhat by the extremely hot weather in late May and though there was plenty of moisture in the soil there were few hard rains during the blooming period to spoil the blooms.

The show started with *Marietta Sisson*, which lasted ten days, *Festiva Maxima*, four-foot stems and enormous blooms, and *Therese*, always beautiful. Then followed in whites, *Frances Willard*, *Avalanche*, *Frankie Curtis*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Le Cygne*, *Ethel Mars*, *Mildred May* and *La Lorraine*.

Blush and pinks: *Nick Shaylor*, *Moonstone*, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*,

Mme. Emile Debatene, *Hansina Brand*, *Grace Batson*, *Blanche King* and last but not least *Baroness Schroeder* was magnificent, four-foot stems and huge blooms that lasted over a week in the house.

Among the reds that were better than usual were *Rosalie*, *Matilda Lewis*, *Mr. L. vanLeeuwen*, *Brand's Magnificent*.

The above varieties were all outstanding and many others better than average. My greatest thrill came from one bloom on a young plant of *Philippe Rivoire*, full seven inches in diameter—a perfect flower with a powerful fragrance that filled the house and lasted a whole week.

So my 1952 Peony season was more than satisfactory and will live in memory for a long time.

Tree Peony Topics

LOUIS SMIRNOW

SANDS POINT, N. Y.

In the last issue I had promised a visit to several of the gardens in the Eastern area to see the tree peonies in bloom and make notes of any good herbaceous and hybrid peonies that were outstanding. Due to some business matters, I was unable to visit Swarthmore Gardens but did see tree peonies in several other spots. It was quite amazing to notice the fine progress made by some of the two-year-old tree peonies and once more was disappointed to see so many of the larger plants, planted last Fall, do so badly. I feel strongly about the advisability of people buying young plants, as against old ones, not only from the standpoint of econ-

omy but from the viewpoint of getting better established. I visited one garden in Nassau County, where 37 two-year-old plants were put in last November and 21 had one bloom each—an astonishing record. They had one loss. There was one plant of *Alice Harding*, that fine yellow *lutea*, that had three blooms on a two-year-old plant. They planted fourteen 4-8 year old plants. Eight seemed to have perished. Only three had blossoms and these were no better than the size of the blooms from a two-year-old plant. I have discussed this with several of the better known amateurs and professionals who agree with me, that people

starting a collection of tree peonies, should start with young plants.

* * *

Tree peonies grafted on tree peony roots are called *Honchonae*. This type of grafting should be discouraged. Tree peonies grafted on herbaceous roots are known as *Karyo-Botannae*. Herbaceous peonies in Japan are called *Shaku-Yaku*. Tree peonies are also called *Botan*.

The first gardens I visited on May 11th, were those of Dr. David Gurin, 10 Grosvenor Road, Great Neck, L.I., N.Y., and I saw the following varieties:

Taisho Nishiki—A fine semi-double, purple with a reddish cast, guard petals striped, with a magnificent center.

Jeanne d'Arc—This is a fine pink European variety on a good sized plant, with very few blossoms on so established a plant.

Hino Tsukasa—This is an immense scarlet on a very young plant. The color seems to fit its American translation of "Ashes of the Setting Sun." Full double scarlet, shading to rose.

Haru No Akebono—Resembles *Yoyo No Homari* with its single to semi-double, blush pink, flat petals.

Fuji No Mine—This was the label I saw on the plant observed. This was a light pink, semi-double with fine foliage, good shade of pink with several blossoms. This apparently is mislabeled for *Fuji No Mine* is almost a pure white.

*Hana Kiso*i—This has had its usual good year and the immense pink blossoms were beautiful.

Jitsu Getsu Nishiki—Fine example of what a good scarlet pink tree peony should be. Blossoms are medium sized, crinkled at the edges and cup shaped.

Kenreimon—Fine purple with

carmine shade. Flower petals narrow and there seems to be long petals which come down to the carpels. This is an incurved double flower, holds its color under the sun. Vivid colored tree peony.

Gekkeikan—Beautiful light pink with a purple cast and has a gorgeous array of colors in the center of the plant, full double, holding its flower well.

Godaishu—A pure white, well formed, extremely large double. This plant establishes itself quickly and will eventually grow to be 5-6 feet tall.

Nikko—Medium sized plant. The correct variety is scarlet, with cup shaped flowers, yellow center. Dr. Gurin's was purple and mislabeled.

Shin Kagura—Deep crimson with rose shaded petals, immense large size double flower and is a famous variety.

Fuji No Akebono—This is a thick petaled semi-double white. The three rows of petals appear to be fuller because of the thickness. Clear white fine variety.

Yoshin—Fine shade of pure pink with a red blotch in the center of flower, nice plant, worthwhile variety.

Ima Shoji—Magnificent, famous, beautiful crimson red, holding its flowers well erect on a medium sized plant.

Taisho Hokori—Pleasing. This is different from the variety, *Taisho Hikari*. This variety is one of the better purples, free blossoming plant.

Triomphe de Vandermaelen—Big cabbage type, lavender pink European variety, typical of the European full doubles.

Senyomon—Deep purple, full double on an excellent plant and is a popular Japanese variety. If you

like this dark purple, you will enjoy this plant.

Osiris—Small plant with good sized dark red flower. Fine European variety and is one of the better ones emanating from this section. It is an unusual brick shade of red and very popular with those who have this variety.

Kimpikurin—Darker scarlet red, semi-double with crepe like petals.

Aya Nishiki—Magnificent cherry red, full double, holding its color well. One of the better plants of this type.

Genkimon—Appears sulphur yellow in bud, opening a pure white, purple blotch at base of petals. This is incurved double. It seems to me this is the closest shade to yellow of all of the whites. While not a free bloomer, this is a magnificent variety.

Hatsu Hinode—Salmon red double, free flowering plant, magnificent color and should be in every collection.

Nishiki No Shitone—Medium red semi-double and reminds one of a parrot tulip. This is free flowering and is a beautiful specimen plant.

Nissho—One of the better known reds, similar to *Yomeimon* and *Kinkaden*. Delightful sight to behold with its brilliant, three-quarter cup flowers, set well on the plant, excellent stems.

Kasumi No Mori—Cherry colored, strong growing plant, large flowers and blooms rather early. This is an old Japanese variety.

Kamada Fuji—Does not appear to be wisteria—blossoms of a magenta cast. Good plant. Medium sized flowers.

Miyuki Nishiki—Good purple with rather odd shaped flower. Nice plant.

Tama midori—Light pink, almost scarlet pink, full double. Fine

plant, bearing many blooms, an excellent variety.

Hadō Tsugata—Appeared to be a light pink single, extremely unimpressive plant.

Shin Kurobotan—Known as the new black peony. Maroon, with medium sized dark blooms, very impressive plant.

Rimpo—This well known variety was never better than seen here. Immense maroon purple flowers with brilliant yellow center. Extremely attractive.

Tama Fuyo—One never visits a garden without seeing this plant at its best. Seems to me that this variety, along with *Yachiyo Tsubaki*, *Hana Daijin*, *Godaishu* and *Yae Zakura* should be in every collection. They never fail to bloom, all are impressive plants. *Tama Fuyo* is a magnificent light pink, semi-double, free blooming, holding its flowers well in the sun.

Howzan—Fine semi-double, darker pink, beautiful shaped petals on medium sized plant. Blooms regularly.

Hira No yuki—Ivory white of perfect form. Full double and is beautiful in every stage, from the time the bud appears to the time the petals fall. Petals remind one of the herbaceous peony *Le Cygne*. Dr. Gurin rates this with the best whites.

Robert Fortune—European variety which is fast disappearing from commerce. This is an exciting red on a very low plant and it is very difficult to obtain.

Bijou de Chusan—Famous European white with green in center. The plant I saw was an excellent one.

Misukage—Japanese variety that was brought into Europe many years ago and is a chestnut colored flower, semi-double.

Rokoko—Another European variety of unusual appearance, semi-double, reminded me of a chrysanthemum colored dark pink.

Gessekai—As usual, was its brilliant self. Big white blooms, nine flowers on one plant.

Joten Ko—Brilliant red, single to semi-double, very attractive.

Yoi Sugata—White single to semi-double, rather unimpressive flower, petals seem to be floppy and gives the general appearance of a plant without substance.

Yae Zakura—Beautiful blush, holds its color very well. Never saw this in better shape.

Sahi Tsuro—Frilled edges on a scarlet pink, full double, attractive plant.

Haku Banriu—One of the best of all whites, free bloomer, symmetrically round flower, velvety petals, free blooming plant.

Kokuho—Big double, medium purple. Seems to me this plant is mislabeled because this variety is supposed to be reddish maroon.

* * *

BEST PLANTS IN ENTIRE GARDEN

Shogyomon—This is not a new white but never has been seen in such perfect form as this year. By far, the best white in this garden. An immense full double white. It was a ten-inch bloom, a perfect example of crepe paper type petal. I saw this same variety in the gardens of Mr. Ed Heathcote, who has a large collection of tree peonies. It was by far, the outstanding variety in his garden this season and he had some very good whites there.

Dr. Gurin is extremely fortunate in having a plant in his garden which was mislabeled *Momoyama*. This is by far the best wisteria colored tree peony I have ever seen.

It is identical in shade with the wisteria seen on a neighbor's fence nearby. Dr. Gurin is watching this plant very carefully and will propagate it later. My first impression was that this was the variety *Esugata*. I am not sure of this. Also in Dr. Gurin's garden were several herbaceous hybrids purchased from Prof. Saunders and Mr. Glasscock and I saw at least one dozen reds. While it is true that red hybrids are extremely attractive, it occurs to me that there has been too much work done on this variety and by continuously working the *lobata* strain and its varieties, some of our hybridists should take advantage of some of our other species and bring out some worthwhile hybrids in other colors.

In my own garden this year, the tree peonies *Eldorado* and *Mine d'Or*, which are the newest of the Lemoine introductions, did very well. The pure yellow and brilliant red centers are really gorgeous. Several plants of *Alice Harding* bloomed from two-year-old stock and while the plants were small, they will do better next year. *La-Lorraine*, *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu*, *Chromatella*, all did very well among the *luteas*.

A two-year-old plant of *Nissho* had two magnificent red blooms which were really eye catching. Some of my herbaceous did very well, especially the European variety *Peter Brand*, which is completely unrelated to the *Peter Brand* had in this country some 15 years ago. *Snow Clouds* promises to be one for future exhibitions and will do well at the shows. *Bowl of Beauty* is a sensational Jap and *White Wings* is much on the order of *Pico*. *Vogue* did very well for the first time, as did *Border Gem* and *Blush Queen*. The Japanese variety

Kakoden appears to be an enormous anemone. It is a pure white, with a beautiful white center and while I do not believe it will make a good cut flower, it will do well at the shows. However, we will wait another year.

Among my other herbaceous, *Ruth Clay*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Ensign Mannix Moriarity*, *Casablanca*, *Florence Nicholls*, *Mrs. Harry F. Little*, *Pink Wonder*, all doubles and *Mrs. Wilder Bancroft*, *Sword Dance*, *Charm*—Walter Mains red seedling and *Westerner*—all did well. In my travels among the various gardens, three varieties continuously were outstanding. These were *Mrs. Harry F. Little*, *Florence Nicholls* and *Mattie Lafuze*, and for sheer beauty, you have got to go some to beat these three. I failed to mention that the variety *Vanity*, sent to me by Miss Myrtle Gentry of Brand Peony Farms, is doing very well and seems to be a vigorous plant. There were no blooms this year.

The variety *Attar of Roses*, sent to me by Art Murawska, also did well but one of the greatest flowers of all, in my humble opinion, is one called *Moonstone*, which was also introduced by him. I am judging this only as a garden plant and it is exquisite. Mentioning some of the better herbaceous hybrids that grew well in my garden, as well as others, I should like to add that I have always been a great booster of *Diana Parks*, a brilliant full double scarlet and *Howard R. Watkins*, an enormous full globular velvety maroon. These, with *Angelo Cobb Freeborn*, which is a full double, coral pink, make exquisite plants for any garden. Through my friend Carl Worth, I received a good sized plant of *Chameleon* which bloomed a week earlier than *Mlokosiewits-*

chi. The flower is a little larger, almost the same color. I crossed the pollen of this variety, with some of the herbaceous whites. Am still trying to ascertain the origin of this variety. With regard to species as usual the full double *tenuifolia* was the most beautiful. The *lutea* species *Ludlowii* are doing well. We hope with this strain to introduce full double *luteas*, which will hold their heads high. I had a few of the *Iris Kaempferi*, Higo strain, open up here for the first time and some of the colors were really exquisite but they need another year of development.

When I visited Mr. Ed Heathcote, on Flower Hill in Long Island, it was immediately following a heavy rain and most of the flowers had been damaged. He had some good sized specimen plants, which were purchased several years ago. He had an excellent plant of *Impumon*, mentioned above. A year ago, I was quite excited about a plant that I saw there, called *Komachi-Shiro*, which did well again this year, opposite a well established plant of *Renkaku*. The two flowers are identical in appearance. There were several blooms on each plant, and it was quite obvious to those who were there, that these were identical plants, which once again proves that one province in Japan took *Renkaku* and gave it its new name. Ed has exceptionally fine plants of *Shuchiuka*, which is a big single with purple blotches on the base. He has another variety called *Kogane Zome*, which is identical in appearance with *Shuchiuka*, but this variety appears to be a more brilliant white. I also saw two fine plants of the *lutea* hybrid, *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu*, ten days later. It was a startling big flower, really excellent.

I saw among others, *Flora*, a beautiful transparent white single, of fine substance. Other tree peonies in bloom were the following:

Fuji Oe Ryo—Fine white with heavy petals, good double, pure yellow center.

Gabisan—Very popular, full double large white, good grower, one of the better whites.

Gessekai—No blooms on plants. Rain had spoiled it.

Gumpoden — Brilliant purple, large full double, gorgeous variety.

Hanadaijin—Exquisite lustrous magenta, large full double.

Ubatama—Deep velvety maroon on small plant, an attractive flower.

Higurashi—Large bright pink double, fine grower, popular.

Hodai—Rose red, immense full double, great size.

Rimpo—Mentioned above.

Sakura Jishi—Lustrous pink, semi-double, a great favorite.

Nishiki No Shitone—Mentioned above.

Shogyomon—By far the outstanding plant of all—mentioned above. Bloom I saw measured eleven inches and was five inches deep. It was immense and exquisite, despite its size.

My final trip was to see Bill Gratwick's peonies in Pavilion, N. Y. Bill and his family are cultured people. Besides raising tree peonies, they raise sheep, in addition to which there is a summer school run by Mrs. Gratwick on their home, which consists of many acres. Bill is trying to produce *lutea* hybrids which will hold their heads up and from a collection of many *lutea* species, he has selected the best from which he hopes to produce the proper results. He has done some hybridizing on Prof. Saunders *luteas*. His plants are laid out in several fields in tremendous,

long, circular rows. He has an able assistant in Mr. Fitzgerald and they have done remarkably well. His propagating methods have been successful and it is astonishing to see young stock mulched with peat moss and wood shavings.

The most impressive plant I saw was the variety *Shintenchu*, which was a magnificent four-foot plant with many immense blooms and those who know this variety, will realize how beautiful it can be when the flower is right. Bill has a seedling in a white variety which I think is equal to most of our whites now in commerce. He has another medium pink seedling which holds its flower well on pink stems. He has a third and by far, the best of all, next to Dr. Gurin's, which is closest to a wisteria. It is a large, free blooming exquisite semi-double and Bill is propagating it now. I saw the following other plants:

Suma-no-ichi — In my opinion this is similar to *Kokuho-no-Tsukasa*, an exquisite maroon semi-double, taller plant than *Ubatama*, with larger blossoms.

Hiodoshi — Like the scarlet *Nissho*.

Dantenmon — This is an exquisite light pink, with two shades of pink on the flower and did very well this year. It is a full semi-double.

Howzan — Mentioned above.

Horakumon —I have always considered this one of the better purples. This is a pure purple, never fades, flowers hold well on the plant and is a beautiful variety.

Nagoya Castle — This is a large single and in my opinion is the same variety as *Flora*. Probably brought in from Europe and renamed by an enterprising merchant

to *Nagoya Castle*. It is identical in appearance.

Sakura gasane — Normal size blooms but Bill told me that in a very wet year, he has had some blooms fourteen inches big. It is a large double, salmon pink.

Kimpikurin — Mentioned above.

Anyo-no-hikari — Purplish maroon, an usually brilliant flower and much admired.

Arcadia — This is a *lutea* hybrid, similar to *L'Esperance*.

Howdai — An immense rose red, full double, fine variety.

Black Pirate — One of Prof. Saunders hybrids, beautiful plant, always one of the nicest things in the garden.

Canary — Prof. Saunders' *lutea* hybrid, like the variety *Argosy* but a taller yellow.

Narcissus — A Prof. Saunders hybrid, one flower blooming on a young plant. It is a good variety.

Corsair — Deeper maroon than *Black Pirate* but the flower does not hold its head up.

Yae Zakura — One of the best plants in the garden. Details above.

Yaso-Okina — Exquisite white, immense full double, free blooming, wonderful variety. This is one of the parents of the *lutea* hybrid, *Alice Harding*.

Ubatama — Mentioned above.

Haku Raku-ten — This is an old white semi-double, exquisite form, wonderful garden variety.

Renkaku — Mentioned above.

Shujakumon — An immense medium pink, lighter on the edges and darker in the center.

Impumon — Similar to *Nissho*.

Hatsu Hinode — Beautiful semi-double, salmon pink. Mentioned above.

Naniwa Nishiki — Brilliant pink, semi-double, white edges, a very attractive variety.

Tamasudare — One of the better whites, cup shaped flower, always beautiful.

Hana Kisoi — Mentioned above.

Nishiki-no-shitone — Mentioned above.

Haku Tsuru — This is a bluish white, fine semi-double, delightful color.

Genkimon — Semi-double, outside petals, pink which fade to white.

Kokamon — Immense purplish maroon plant, white fringed, very popular.

Gabisan — Magnificent white, with beautiful red center.

This has been a fine peony year and excellent plants of all types have been seen in all gardens.

Passing Comments on the Tree Peony

Earl Morse

Great Neck, N. Y.

The tree peony season of 1952 was the best in my memory for the past ten years. We had a very mild winter and a very mild wet spring, and all these factors contributed to the best showing of these magnificent plants.

The first plant to show bloom was the magenta semi-double *Shi-*

lowden on May 6, and it was not until a month later that the season concluded—when I snapped off the faded bloom of *Harvest*, a beige single *lutea* hybrid by Professor A. P. Saunders. The peak of this year's flowering season occurred on May 15th when the incredibly beautiful mass effect of a tree

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pecny bed with about eighty mature plants in bloom was in evidence. Consulting my diary I find that this date has varied somewhat in different years, it being a week earlier in 1949, ten days later in 1950 and about the same date in 1951.

The famous light pink, fully semi-double variety, *Hana-Kisoi*, bloomed magnificently this year and still remains my favorite among the Japanese-type tree peonies. Each of the blooms was of good substance and large and fully justified the description often given of tree peonies as resembling huge crepe-paper flowers. This variety has the fine habit of opening its bloom all at the same time and of blooming well above the leaves. Other good light pinks were *Schuhiuka* and *Tama-Fuyō*.

Among the whites, *Renkaku* was outstanding in my garden. Unfortunately, neither *Gessekai* nor *Gekkyuden* bloomed for me this year; they are magnificent examples of the white Japanese tree peony. An exceptionally fine white is *Tama-Sudare*, which I saw bloom in my neighbor's garden.

In the rose-pink group, *Asahimaru* was outstanding. In the scarlet group, *Nishiki-no-shitōne* was, as usual, extremely striking; the edging of this bloom is striated white, and many visitors thought it looked like a huge tulip. In the crimson group, *Ubatama* and *Hatsu Garashu* were, also as usual, outstanding. In the magenta group, *Shikowden* was doubly welcome, not only because it opened the season for me, but also for its velvety substance. In the purple category, *Rimpo* was outstanding; it has a semi-double bloom almost fully double and is a fine purplish color with

very prominent yellow stamens; any small collection of tree peonies should include an example of this variety, if possible; fortunately, it isn't difficult to come by.

Keeping as I do a record of each plant by year, one cannot fail to be impressed by the capricious quality of these plants in giving forth bloom. The history of one of my *Hana-Kisoi* plants is a good example in point. It was bought in 1948 as a five-year-old plant and did not bloom in 1949 which was not surprising as usually it takes a year after transplanting before a plant is ready to give any kind of satisfactory bloom. It not only failed to bloom in 1950 but it was attacked by the wilt and died down to the ground, and I expected the plant to be a total loss. I was gratified to see some small new growth appear in the middle of the summer. In 1951 the plant had recovered and gave me three magnificent blooms, and this year there were seven magnificent blooms, on a perfectly shaped plant. I have found it not uncommon for some plants to go three and four years after being transplanted and fail to give bloom, although a neighboring plant growing under exactly the same conditions may give handsome bloom with constant increase year after year. For example, one plant about six or seven years old gave me thirteen blooms in 1948, seven blooms in 1949, seventeen blooms in 1950, eighteen blooms in 1951 and this year favored me with thirty-five handsome flowers making a fantastic show.

I have had very little luck with the European tree peony. These plants grow very vigorously but are very shy bloomers. When they are right they are magnificent, however, resembling hand s o m e

double herbaceous peonies in very beautiful shades. Visitors greatly admired a very handsome bloom of *Souvenir de Ducher* which is a double mauve variety. *Reine Elizabeth*, a salmon pink, is also a great beauty. *Osiris* is an interesting red rose double variety which enjoys the additional distinction of being dwarf in growing habit. Any large collection should include several European tree peonies. In passing I should note, however, that I have seen plants ten to twenty-five years old in the famous Swarthmore College collection which failed to throw a bloom.

To the tree peony fancier, the *lutea* hybrids are the most interesting although they have relatively small landscape value as they too are shy bloomers, and when they do throw a bloom it is often concealed among the leaves. The most beautiful of them is *Alice Harding*, which is a large double yellow; this variety fortunately has strong stems; unfortunately, it is rare, difficult to come by and very expensive. *Chromatella*, also a Lemoine introduction, is a pale yellow and is more easily available at a reasonable price. The most famous of the *lutea* hybrids is *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu*; this is a large, fully double plant of delightful fragrance in a deep yellow heavily shaded with orange salmon. These plants are of enormous vigor becoming very tall and bushy; unfortunately, the stems are very weak and the flowers are hidden beneath the leaves, but they make very showy cut flowers which can be floated in a shallow vase.

Three of the newer Lemoine hybrids are *Eldorado*, *Mine d'Or* and *Sang Lorain*; I brought these plants with me from Europe a few years ago. They were moved in the

middle of August, taken bare-rooted by boat, fumigated by the Department of Agriculture and then planted in my garden looking a little bedraggled from this unseasonable experience. Surprisingly enough, they all survived and are very vigorous plants today. *Eldorado* is a very clear yellow, semi-double with good stems. *Sang Lorain* has small single blooms of deep mahogany red, blotched black at their base with a crown of purple anthers. Lemoine describes this variety as semi-double and six inches wide. After four years it is still small and single, but the color is as represented and that is a very unusual one. *Mine d'Or* is a smallish single, bright yellow, like *Argosy*. Lemoine's catalog describes this plant as being eight inches wide; so far, mine has been half that size. It may perhaps come up to description in the years to come.

The most distinguished work in the hybridizing of the *luteas* has, of course, been done by Professor A. P. Saunders of Hamilton College. Aside from the earlier ones, like *Argosy* and *Roman Gold*, which are very starchy bright yellow, single blooms, he has developed them in shades of red, lavender, beige and maroon.

The *luteas* bloom after the Japanese tree peonies have finished, and for that reason carry on the blooming period into the opening of the early herbaceous hybrids.

GROVESIDE GARDENS

CHOICE PEONIES

Catalog on request

63rd and Grand

DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.

Growing of Cut Flower Peonies

Carl Klehm
Arlington Heights, Ill.

Planting a field of peonies for production of flowers is a long range program of approximately 15 years. The first 3 years the field will cost the grower money and effort for cultivation, weeding and other overhead. The next 10 to 12 years have to be profitable enough to cover the cost involved in the first 3 years.

Preparation of Land

It usually takes 2 to 3 years to prepare a field ideally for peonies. The first objective is to provide very good drainage. This cannot be over-emphasized. Many troubles like Botrytis, etc. are eliminated with proper drainage. The peony will just not thrive if its feet are wet.

It pays to have the soil analyzed and apply any elements that might be deficient. Peonies are very tolerant to acidity but it would be to the grower's advantage to have a P. H. of approximately 6. If the acidity is higher than this it would be very valuable to apply limestone. Rock phosphate applied before plants are put in would pay off over a period of years. The next procedure would be to put the field in legumes of some kind and plow these legumes under the 2nd year. In this way the organic matter is built up before the fields are planted. A good month to plow legumes under is early July and if the field is disced once a week, the field will be in ideal condition for planting in September or October.

Planting

We space our peonies 4 ft. x 4 ft.

In this manner we are able to cultivate our rows both ways, thus eliminating a good share of the hand weeding. We have found the AV Farmall to be the most ideal tractor for cultivation because it has high clearance and the operator can see the plants well.

Cultivating

Our first cultivating is done as soon as the ground is dry enough to work with a tractor. This time we use disc blades, staying far away from the bushes, merely loosening the soil. During this operation we also side dress with approximately one-half ton of a commercial fertilizer per acre. After a week or so we cultivate again with sweeps—this time as close to the plant as possible—to kill the weeds that are close to the bush. In our latitude we use clean cultivation all summer. In the southern half of Indiana and Illinois the peonies are not cultivated after July and the grass and weeds are left to grow to help lessen winter erosion and heaving.

Maintenance

Hilling the peonies for winter is necessary for at least 1 or 2 years; otherwise there is too much loss due to heaving. After this time hilling is not necessary in sections where the winters are not open (ground stays frozen). Where there is much freezing and thawing the peonies should be hilled each fall.

After the plants are 2 years old the foliage should be cut late each fall, raked and burned. This will

practically eliminate the stem rusts.

Harvesting

There is nothing special to disbudding. However, after disbudding the peonies, some growers make sure that the plants will not be damaged by cutting too many flowers and therefore take 1-3 to 2-3 of the weakest flowers off of each plant. This insures protection for the plant from overpicking by inexperienced labor and also improves the quality because the stronger flowers only are being picked.

Do not cut from the plants until they are 3 years old. Never cut your plants to death. Whether to cut the flowers to the ground or to leave 1 or 2 leaves will be decided by what the grower's market demands. Most flowers sold wholesale will command a better price with a longer stem. As quickly as possible after cutting the flowers should be cooled. We feel that every hour that elapses before it is cooled is like taking a day's life away from the flower. The ideal temperature for storage is 32-33 degrees. Dry storage has proven superior provided

the flower is not wilted when put into storage.

Varieties

These are some of the varieties that are proven successes:

Pinks: *Mons. Jules Elie* (E), *Sarah Bernhardt* (L), *Lady Kate* (VL).

Whites: *Festiva Maxima* (E), *Avalanche* (M), *Baroness Schroeder* (L), *La Lorraine* (M).

Reds: *Richard Carvel* (E), *Felix Crousse* (M), *Augustin d'Hour* (M).

Among the newer varieties that have cut flower possibilities are *Charlie's White* (we believe, in our opinion, the best commercial white peony); *Emma Klehm*, *Cathie Ann*, *Renato*, *Big Ben*, *Dixie*, *Kansas*, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, *Victory*, *Alice Reed Bates*, *Moonstone*, *Plymouth*, *James Pillow*, *Mother's Day*, *Elsa Sass*, *Minuet* and *Auten's Pride*.

Most varieties that have stamens do not have a good fragrance after coming out of storage and therefore we try to shy away from these as much as possible.

We have many favorite varieties that are beautiful for the garden but do not qualify for cut flowers for various reasons.

Comments On Bulletin No. 114

By C. M. Clarke, Alberta, Canada

Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

Bulletin 114, page 28: "*Asia is the home of the peony. Please accept this assertion.*" Sorry sir, I can't, because of an old prejudice acquired about fifty years ago. Asia is not the home of *The Peony*, but only of *certain* peonies.

Years ago, Lyell and Darwin in England, Gray and Sargent in the United States, and many other scientists in these and other lands showed quite clearly that the flora of the north temperate zone—of which the genus *Paeonia* is part—is of circumpolar origin and

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was gradually pushed southward from Arctic regions as changing climatic conditions rendered the original habitat untenable, and scientists of today still uphold the accuracy of their findings. There is no other satisfactory explanation of the very wide distribution of *Paeonia* in the north temperate zone, America east of the Rocky Mountains being the only great land area in this region in which there are no indigenous species.

For example, the natural range of *Paeonia anomala* with its variety *P. anomala intermedia* stretches from the Kola Peninsula, within the Arctic Circle, across Europe and Asia to Lake Baikal and to the borders of Sinkiang. Who are the "crazy people" (the term is Mr. Koby's) who, according to Mr. Koby, carried this species westward from its Asian "home" over that immense and, for the greater part bleak and, even today, still very thinly peopled territory, much of which was, until comparatively recent times, virtually unknown; and from where did they come? They must certainly have lived many hundred thousand years before the beginning of the 300,000 which Mr. Koby tells us covers the span of human existence.

Similarities of the various species of *Paeonia* found in Europe and western Asia, in eastern Asia, and in the United States, make it abundantly clear that all have a common ancestry; but the very marked differences between the species, each of which has its own well defined range, also make it quite clear that no species of any one of these three groups is descended from any species in another group, that each evolved separately from the Arctic peony of Miocene and Pliocene times and reached its present habitat without any aid

from man, long before he appeared on earth.

Page 29:—"The peony referred to is *P. officinalis*"—Not necessarily so. In pre-Linnean days, peonies had long Latin names that were really short descriptions rather than names, very much too cumbersome for ordinary use. In common practice they were all just peonies—male or female, according to the shape of their leaf lobes and roots, and the different kinds were usually distinguished by the names of the localities where they originated.

When Linnaeus created the genus *Paeonia*, he lumped all peonies together under the single specific name *officinalis*, merely dividing them into two forms—*mascula* and *foeminina*. Later, he separated from it two other species—*tenuifolia* and *anomala*. These three are the only species he named, and the name "*officinalis*" was not restricted to the single species to which it is now applied till 1812.

What is now known as *P. mascula* (Syn. *P. corallina*)—a form of the "male peony" of the old herbalists and of *P. officinalis forma mascula* of Linnaeus—was probably the most popular kind for medicinal use in Europe, or at least it was as highly esteemed and as widely cultivated as what is now *P. officinalis*—a female peony of the herbalists and one of several forms of *P. officinalis forma foeminina* of Linnaeus—and all others were considered good medicine where they were found.

Unless "the Mount Glaucus peony" was particularly mentioned or indicated in some way, there would be no reason for assuming that "the peony referred to is *P. officinalis*" in the sense in which the name is now used.

The Sass Brothers

By Adrian Gibson, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Great artists sometimes develop and practice their art in places and at times that, to the observer, do not seem too propitious. The rolling hills just west of Omaha, Neb. are far from being a gardener's paradise. The winters there are often hard; summers are apt to be extremely dry and hot. Periods of excessive moisture frequently occur in spring and fall. The winds are high. The rains have a way of developing into devastating floods, ending in obliterating hail. Erosion is terrific. Yet, here the Sasses lived and worked.

The mental climate of the Midwest in the early years of this century could not have been particularly stimulating to the plant breeder. The science of genetics was—perhaps still is—in its infancy. No local groups encouraged the Sasses in their endeavors. No competitor spurred their early efforts. They had no formal or scientific training for the work they undertook. Yet, what a wealth of accomplishment was theirs!

Briefly, as the story came to me, the two brothers sat on the back porch of a modest farm home, resting before their afternoon's work. Their attention happened to be attracted by a huge bumble bee busy among the blooms of the variegata irises that bordered the walk. Being possessed with an intense curiosity concerning the ways of nature, they fell into interested speculation on the work of the bee. They dissected a flower and explored for themselves the mechanics of its fertilization. Playing Providence, they "crossed" and "selfed" a few flowers. When seed set on several of the plants they

had worked, their ingrained thoroughness saw that the seeds were planted. Their first iris seedling bloomed in 1907. Their interest in hybridizing flowers fanned into a passion that has given us such irises as *King Tut*, *War Eagle*, *Matula*, as well as the newer *Prairie Sunset*, *Golden Fleece*, *Red Douglas*, *Ola Kala*, *Solid Mahogany*, *Blue Shimmer*—to name only a few of the dozens of great varieties they have introduced.

Their work with peonies resulted in many beautiful new sorts among the most popular being rich *Judy Becker*, queenly *Elsa Sass*, and the lovely *Sea Shell*. In hemerocallis we need to mention only *Hesperus* and *Orange Beauty* to indicate the measure of quality that they brought to many of their introductions of this flower. Their genius touched and embellished the Oriental poppy, the umbellatum lily, the lilac; resulting in new and improved varieties of each. The writer one time came upon a short row of a perennial onion at the side of a peony seed-bed in the Maple Road Garden and, on inquiry concerning it, was told, "He (meaning Jacob Sass) thought that something might be done to improve the quality of the 'winter' onion."

Wide as their interests were, their greatest field of accomplishment was among the irises. In the "Hall of Fame" group, eight of the first twenty-nine irises are of Sass origination. Mrs. Agnes Whiting based most of her work on that of the Sass brothers. David Hall's new tangerine pinks carry much of the Sass blood. Many other breeders have been helped greatly by their prodigious labors, but the real ben-

eficiaries have been you and I, the plain gardeners who "like irises" or "peonies" or "hemerocallis," as the case may be. Have you ever taken the time to compare the best of the modern irises with some of the unnamed variegatas that granmother grew? Or to compare the modern hemerocallis—*Hesperus*, for instance—with the "corn lily" that used to grow about the old wells and watering troughs? Such comparison will illustrate the extent that efforts of these men and those who have worked with them have abetted slow, natural processes. Into the last fifty years, they have crowded plant improvement that would not have occurred in unaided nature for many, many centuries.

Jacob Sass died in 1945 and

Hans in 1949. Their art lives on in gardens all over the world where men practice the ancient rite. It can be truly said of the brothers that they left this earth a more beautiful place than they found it. Since they worked very closely together, no effort is made here to evaluate their individual effort. Their work is being ably carried forward by Henry Sass, son of Jacob, at the Maple Road Garden just a few miles west of Omaha.

(Note: *Elsa Sass* is close to being my most satisfactory peony so far. *Sea Shell* to date has been my best single. The above is intended as a sincere tribute to the memory of the men who made these fine peonies available for my garden.

—A. G.)

Some Observations on Peony Colors

By Lawrence E. Craig
Salix, Iowa

As the Peony Society does not have a color chart, I am directing my thoughts along that line. When the manual was printed it was not thought advisable at that time to have one and the reasons were set forth on pages 75 and 76.

Perhaps it is still not practical for the Society to have a Color Chart, but I will expose a workable one for criticism.

In the manual and bulletins the following descriptive terms have been used, namely: White, Ivory, Cream, Primrose, Lemon, Straw, Amber, Sulphur, Orange, Blush, Flesh, Peach, Apple Blossom, Shell Pink, Salmon, Coral, Hydrangea Pink, Lilac, Lavender, Old Rose, American Beauty, Scarlet Crimson, Cardinal, Amaranth, Tyrian Purple, Fuchsia, Magenta, Solferino Cherry, Cerise, Maroon, and Ruby.

So if a chart is set up embracing

the above colors we could classify at least 99 per cent of all Peony colors. A peony color chart to be serviceable should not only show the color of a peony but the color of the collar and also the color of the centers of single and Japanese types. In a double the center of the peony is the color of the flower, while in the single and Japanese the collar or outside is the color of the flower.

We have so many beautiful pinks that I am separating the pinks from the reds.

A tint is a faint suffusing of color.

A tinge is a deeper stain than tint.

Shade suggests a darker color.

Brilliance may be described as being nearest to white or difference from black.

Hue is the term used to designate the color, as Red Hue, Yellow Hue.

Saturation is that attribute in respect to which colors may be differentiated as being higher or lower in degree of vividness of hue.

As black has zero brilliance and white has the most brilliance of any color, it therefore follows that high brilliance is the lightest colors and that low brilliance is the darkest colors with medium brilliance in between.

I believe that flesh and ivory might be placed in the yellow toned

white class and the blush in the red toned white class.

Having studied the hues, the saturation and the brilliance of all the colors used in describing peonies, I present the Color Chart.

The symbols could stand for both center color and collar color; for instance, a peony might have a W1 center and a Y2 collar.

The nice thing about a chart of this nature is that it could be added to without hurting its usefulness.

WHITE		YELLOW HUES		RED HUES		PINK HUES	
White Self	W 1	Cream	Y 1	American Beauty	R 1	Peach	P 1
Blue Toned White	W 2	Primrose	Y 2	Scarlet	R 2	Apple Blossom	P 2
Red Toned White	W 3	Amber	Y 3	Cardinal	R 3	Shell Pink	P 3
Yellow Toned White	W 4	Lemon	Y 4	Crimson	R 4	Salmon	P 4
White With Red Marking	W 5	Straw	Y 5	Tyrian Purple	R 5	Hydrangea	P 5
		Old Gold	Y 6	Amaranth	R 6	Lilac	P 6
		Sulphur	Y 7	Cerise Cherry	R 7	Mauve	P 7
		Orange	Y 8	Fuchsia Magenta Solferino	R 8	Lavender	P 8
				Maroon	R 9	Coral	P 9
				Ruby	R 10	Old Rose	P 10
				Mahogany	R 11	Pink with Red Marking	P 11
						Pink Blend	P 12

FOLLOWING THE SUN

BY LES E. FOSTER, YORK, NEB.

The morning of May 23rd, 1952, the Fosters headed toward Kansas City, Mo. At Lincoln, Neb., John Bernstein was spied in his three-acre peony field where just a trace of color was showing. He was beginning the cutting of buds for the Memorial Day trade and when we left, he and his pipe were both smiling.

As we entered that great exhibition hall of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, the next morning, we observed all of the exhibitors were working rapidly to place their blooms, and they had their entries ready for judging by noon. The Greater Kansas City and Iris Society were sponsors of this delightful and colorful iris and peony show and, while the iris display was gorgeous, most of our time was used in admiring the peonies. Mr. P. M. Peterson, chairman of the show committee, asked me to assist judge the show with F. P. Tikalsky of La Grange, Ill., the gentleman who writes so cleverly for the Bulletin, and A. M. Riley of Independence, Missouri, an amateur grower.

Ann Cousins, the \$100.00 per division white beauty, was chosen the Grand Champion of the show, and the entrancing arrangement of the petals and the delightful form of the peony still haunt me. It is a full double pure white beauty. If the plant has as many good habits as the bloom has charm, then indeed the peony world has acquired something worthwhile rather than another high-priced cabbage. *High-light* is another good red double with piles of class and don't neglect Auten's red *Andy*. This would be a handy *Andy* for any peony garden.

My hat came right off to *Doris Cooper*, a dandy light pink double, with delightful color, and to blushing white, *Mattie Lafuze*. There were a hundred raving beauties including red *Burma*, golden white *Jean Harlow*, delightful *Hermione*, three grand reds in *Shawnee Chief*, *Kansas*, and *Ruth Clay*, and *James Pillow*, *Victory*, *Thura Hires*, *Blush*, *Florence Bond*, *Nancy Nicholls*, *The Mighty Mo*, *Minuet*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Chippewa*, and *Cathie Ann*. *Chocolate Soldier* was in there pitching and winning, too. One of the prettiest arrangements was a bouquet of eight or nine brilliant-red, huge pigeon-breasted *Felix Crousse* blooms in a basket with greenery. A charming couple from down Carthage-way, by name Gouverneur, raised and arranged these flowers. *Old Felix* is a champion when well grown.

We actually tore ourselves away in the afternoon for we wanted to reach Topeka to see if Mr. Bigger could grow them bigger. At that he was pretty big to come out from town to tour us through his three fields for the gloam was agloaming and the dusk was growing duskier. I figured I had had a hard day at Kansas City, but before long my head was fairly swimming with the view of hundreds of new seedlings and new varieties growing like mad in these fertile acres—acres that had been under deep water for (was it a couple of weeks during the 1950 flood?) and, except for a small row or two, giant peonies were growing in all their swagger. Truly the peony is a hardy plant to withstand drought and floods so well.

This article would seem incomplete without a mention of local

blooms. When we reached home the early ones were opening. They were especially choice this year for no rain fell on the blossoms and consequently with plenty of moisture in the soil the blooms were bright and held their faces surprisingly erect. For over two weeks we enjoyed them all. All the way from *Jewel* and the hybrids to the early blooming *albiflora* with *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Crusader*, *White Eagle*, *Tempest*, *LeCygne* etc., down past *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Mark Twain*, *Thor*, *Lady of the Snows*, *Edith M. Snook*, *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, *Florence Bond*, *Victory*, *Moonglow*, *Plainsman*, *Marilla Beauty*, *Duluth*, *Westerner*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Allure*, *Sensation*, *Mount Everest*, *Hansina Brand*, *Nebraska*, *Loren Franklin*, mighty *Nick Shaylor*, the champ of the garden, *Judge Snook*, and the last blooms for home bouquets were two dandies, *Elsa Sass* and *Mme. Manchet*.

A few lingering pastel blooms were lightening up the garden when the second trip was started so early in the morning that we observed what is commonly called the dawn. The remains of the great Missouri river flood from a dirt road near Blair, Neb., left streaks of white dust on the newly waxed car and for ten miles we were in a swirling dust storm with every passing car a tornado of fine sifting powder. The temperature was 96 and inside, with the windows closed to keep out the dust, it was hotter.

The town of Onawa, Ia., had for many years a great peony enthusiast, a Mr. Huntington. He passed away four years ago and the original garden, rather unkept due to recent flood conditions, and blossom-shattered by the heat wave, re-

flected its past glory in long rows of *Jubilee*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Philippine Rivoire*, *Elsa Sass* and 250 more varieties, and of course, including that great Hans P. Sass variety named after Mr. Huntington's daughter, *Elizabeth*.

At Salix, Ia., we met a pair of peony fans, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Craig, who were so hospitable on that hot afternoon with their cool home and cool drinks and ice cream that we were rather late in leaving for the first real stop, the North Dakota Peony Show. Grand peony gardens were seen surrounding the Craig home. The *Hans P. Sass* variety is sometimes mentioned as anemic looking, but not here. It was strong, green and luscious with giant-sized white blooms. *Blanche King*, too, was in prime condition and showed unusually dark pink color. Many varieties were ending their blooming season and a vase of about the finest *Elsa Sass* ever, graced the living room table. Another garden owned jointly by L. E. Craig and J. W. Winterringer, located east of Salix, was choice. A small garden with many rare varieties very well grown. Here was seen a durable and handy plant marker. A heavy wire shaft 36 in. long supported a rectangular frame 2½ by 4 in., on top of which hung a galvanized metal tag bearing the variety's name stamped into the metal. This label was originated by J. W. Winterringer. No hunting for short stake labels here! There was the name, level with the blooms, staring right back at you. I felt very smart calling some of the flowers by name when I scarcely recognized them.

* * *

Grand Forks, North Dakota, is a bustling city, so bustling in fact, we just about gave up gaining

sleeping accommodations. We parked our car just some place down town and in the morning happily discovered the Peony Show building to be located in between our hotel and the car, a matter of two blocks. Rather a handy incident when the lack of knowledge of a strange city is a terrible challenge to the traveler.

About the best managed show in the business was handled right here. No wonder, for thirty years this North Dakota show has been an outstanding annual event. Happy Mrs. R. W. Smith was president and Mrs. M. B. Kannowski was secretary, and they had a grand working organization. By the way, Mrs. Kannowski is the Park Superintendent of Grand Forks, and I learned there that she is the only woman in the world who holds such a position. A few weeks before, this lady knowing we were planning to visit their show, asked Mrs. Foster and me to judge it. The show was staged in the lower auditorium of the Central High School building and a handy place it proved to be. Despite a dry growing season there was an excellent display of peonies with the strongest competition represented in the amateur classes which is an encouragement for any peony society. For instance, Class one, one bloom white, had twenty-six entries, and Class two had twenty-three entries which number is enough to thin the grey hair of any judge. *Hansina Brand*, the blonde queen, was chosen Grand Champion, but had strong competition in *Blanche King*, *LeCygne*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *La Lorraine*, *Ruth Elizabeth* and beautifully tinted *Golden Glow*.

An odd thing happened here. A large bright red rose-type bloom, strikingly beautiful, was brought

into the North Dakota show room unnamed. This flower was in prime show condition and just about beautiful enough to compete with the Court of Honor blooms, too. In checking up on this flower, the committee discovered that the owner had bought the root several years ago, of all places, at a dime store. And here it was, if named, a near champion!

We encountered peonies in bloom in yard and cemetery plantings during our quick trip to Winnipeg and the Lake of the Woods. The shore drive to Duluth was thrilling but not any more than the anticipation of the Duluth peony blooms. For years we had heard of wonderful peonies growing under the perfect misty cloudiness of the Lake Superior vicinity and of all the choice colors that came from that iron soil. So we summoned our reserve courage and knocked hard on the door of the home that housed the Duluth peony greats, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Wipson. This was on June 15th, several days since our York, Nebraska, blooms had vanished. And to our surprise nothing but the *officinalis* and hybrids were opening in any of the Wipson's four weedless gardens. Such great colorful blooms were seen that they were difficult to identify without close inspection. There is no doubt but that this Lake Superior climate, with its cool nights, retards the time of blooming, and the filtering of the sun's rays through the overcast clouds brings out all the hidden beauty of the flowers. There must be something, too, in their rocky red soil that both stimulates vigorous growth of stem and promotes charm of bloom. *Minuet* was a representative strong plant of the oldest of their gardens, and so tall it was that we suspect-

ed Paul Bunyan himself must have passed this way and caressed it with his green thumb. We loved the misty cloudiness of Duluth's climate and the friendliness of our hosts but Minneapolis was calling so on through the traffic and later rain, to the Minnesota Peony Show.

Here was a Peony heaven staged in the commodious Northwestern National Bank Building. My old-time friend, Walter Lindgren, asked me to help Miss Myrtle Gentry and Loren Franklin judge the amateur classes. Now this was mingling with good judges of peonies, so of course I readily consented to do my bit. As it turned out, I broke a lot of tie votes, for this couple was modest when it came to judging their own named varieties. Whenever Brand and Franklin varieties showed up together, Miss Gentry would lean over backwards and give the Franklin variety every chance and Loren was just as polite and did the same thing for the Brand variety. Since most of the peonies in these classes seemed to be either Brand or Franklin varieties, I had a long afternoon keeping this famous couple from completely collapsing!

We spent eight hours in a sort of peony delirium at this grand exhibit that one could rightfully call a small national show. The exhibitors were there with many entries, the experts and hobbyists were there happily observing and commenting, the spectators were there in droves exclaiming and writing down names of varieties, and surely the peonies were there in profusion, all of champion size and beauty. The climax of the judging was reached when *Hansina Brand* was selected Grand Champion from a large entry in the Court of Honor class.

Late that afternoon, we drove to Faribault, Minn., and discovered that the Brand Peony Farms was staging a real peony show of their own in their large show room. They had on display many varieties among which were found some of their very newest introductions. A tour of their fields, the following morning, disclosed four gardens of many acres ablaze with color in spite of recent rains and wind. Mr. A. M. Brand, although not in the best of health, was about the nursery rather early and was in the car during the field inspection. He took his usual keen interest in the peonies, the crops, the weather, and Faribault personalities. Nature can slow down physically but not mentally a great, gentle soul such as Mr. A. M. Brand.

After lunch we found Dr. John L. Crenshaw in his home at Rochester, Minn. In the cool of the afternoon he showed us his peony garden of choice and rare varieties. Just give the Doctor a little more time and he may provide us with some worthwhile introductions. Nine rows of seedlings were seen and several varieties appeared to be super-dupers that would fit nicely into any peony garden. The Doctor is a connoisseur of this flower with distinct likes and dislikes and anything he introduces or recommends will be well worth growing.

Tiredness somehow eluded us until we stopped to "gas up" at Lake Okobogi, Ia., and then suddenly this pleasure resort spot beckoned so urgently that within minutes we were resting in a shady park with a twenty-four hour lease on a cute cottage in Arnold Park.

As I stretched out to enjoy the cool comfort of this hot day, a panoramic vision of the peony season

persisted in entering my consciousness. Big blooms kept popping all around.

From Kansas City. The lustre and gentle glow of white-petaled *Ann Cousins* and a glowing pinkish *Solange*, the runner up. The pleasing dark red of *Highlight*, the fully double medium red *Andy*, rose pink *Cathie Ann*, apple blossom pink *Hermione*, white and golden *Jean Harlow*, the entrancing basket of tall red *Kansas*, the blushing white double *Mattie Lafuze*, brilliant red *Shawnee Chief*, the rich living red of *Ruth Clay*, Sass' large pink single, *Sea Shell*, black red *Chocolate Soldier*, and beautiful very light pink *Doris Cooper*. Jim Wild's tremendous peony display with thousands of blooms—hundreds in vases, and hundreds still in tubs awaiting their turn.

The long rows of fading *Jubilee* and *Kelway's Glorious* at the Huntington Gardens at Onawa, Iowa.

At the friendly home of the Craigs at Silex, Iowa, the brand new power driven cultivator that Mr. Craig demonstrated in his color-splashed garden.

The vases of wonderful *La Lorraine* and *Harry F. Little* blooms grown by Mrs. M. B. Kannowski of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and a good glimpse of *Doris Cooper* opening rapidly from a loose bud to almost a full flower just a couple of hours short of a Court of Honor contender.

At the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society's show. The Court of Honor with *Hansina Brand* winning from a great *Reine Hortense*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *LaLorraine*, *Red Charm* and *Pico*. The Schneider's vase of three excellent blooms of *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, Lins display of *King Midas*, *Tondeleyo*, *Dolorodell*, *Ensign Moriarty*, *Garden-*

ia, *Burma* and other seedlings, Gibson's fine bloom of Jacob's Sass' *Nebraska*, the colorful display of hybrids, anyone of the coral tinted beauties which Mrs. Foster declared is a "must" for her floating bowl. The beautiful *Minuets* and *Myrtle Gentrys*. Walter Lindgren's gorgeous display tables of the newest peonies.

At Brand's, those giant baskets of *Rashoomons*, *Myrtle Gentrys*, *John L. Crenshaws*, outstanding blooms of *George W. Peyton*, *Ellen Foster*, *Victoire de la Marne*, the Brand Jap *Vanity*, *Joanne Foreman*, *Jean Cooperman*, *R. A. Napier*, and so many others.

The peonies were not all of the trip either. Other things seemed nice. The lakes, rivers, forests, boulders and wild animal life viewed from Canadian highways. The overnight accommodations arranged by hospitable Myrtle Gentry in the lovely home of Mrs. Harriet Andrews atop the highest knoll overlooking Faribault. The colorful knot of peony-minded diners, headed by George W. Peyton, at the 3 p.m. luncheon table in Minneapolis. Lawyer Howard M. Englund's mammoth story of how he just about won the Grand Champion bloom at the to-be 1954 National Show! Wish there was space for it here. You would smile! Then there was the renewing of acquaintances, the gaining of new friends, the fun of renting a new sleeping place each night, the joy of selecting cafes en route, the friendliness of everyone along the way, the actual pleasure of leaving home and comfort of returning to it.

Maybe next vacation time, the Lord willing, we will take another peony pilgrimage. What could be nicer?

MY TRIP TO LAKE MOHAWK

A. L. Murawska

River Grove, Illinois

Three enjoyable days were spent at Lake Mohawk.

We saw many new varieties of peonies. I was very much impressed by *Ann Cousins*. I think we have a peony here which is very new and different from the usual thing. Although the make-up of the flower seems somewhat irregular the silver cast in its whiteness gives it a distinctive glow.

Moonstone was by far the most popular flower at the show.

Mr. Glasscock's *Red Charm* impressed me very much, but there is no supply of them as yet.

After arriving home from Lake Mohawk I was asked to be one of the judges at the Duluth show. Just had time for a bath and a shave and off for Duluth, where they grow the most beautiful peonies I have ever seen, but because of the heavy rains some of the blooms had been down on the ground and for that reason the flowers at the show

were not as superior as I have seen them other years. The most wonderful peony, *Le Cygne*, which topped the show, and to my notion is still the standard for judging peonies, again stands out as the foremost Chinese.

After several days rest, and a little liquid refreshment, upon reflection, I find that the best of all shows staged this year was that of Dr. D. Sanford Hyde at the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital in Chicago. All the flowers at this show seemed superior to those at the above mentioned exhibitions. This may be because there was no shipping or handling as they were freshly picked from Dr. Hyde's garden and immediately exhibited. One of the outstanding peonies was *Auten's Pride*. It was a large, beautifully shaped bloom. He also artistically displayed *Mildred May*, a semi-double branching variety.

The fun is now over, back to work we go, weeding, planting and planning for the next National Show.

Directions for the Culture Of Peonies in the Middle-Atlantic States

By J. F. Styer

Peonies are very hardy and very long-lived. They love a cold open location with plenty of room and air, and need to freeze hard in winter. They are practically immune to insects, and to disease of stem and leaf.

Peonies are infrequently attacked by fungi if softened by too rapid growth or weakened by wet soil or shade. It is wise to select, therefore, an unprotected, unshaded, and reasonably dry place to plant peonies.

Do not plant a clump or even a large division of roots, but use a small clean division with three to five buds or "Eyes." Transplanting results in the slow decomposition of all the large roots and their replacement by new ones, hence the plant should be reduced to the minimum size which will grow well. Plant after the weather has turned cool in September and October, or in March, but make sure when planting in the Spring that the roots are still dormant.

Set the crown of the plant (the base of the largest eyes) exactly two inches below the ground level when planting, and pack the soil tightly. Then, for the first winter

only heap the soil three inches higher over the plant to prevent frost heaving. Thereafter use no covering or mulch at all, and keep the ground level. Peonies should get all the freezing that is possible.

No water should be used on peonies under any circumstances except to help them open their buds in a dry year. Never water them in the fall. Keep them free of weeds. Remove the dead tops in the winter. Use fertilizer only after the plants are two years old, and be careful that it is not used liberally; keep the plants barely able to produce large flowers. Keep the soil neutral with powdered agricultural limestone, which can be used in any quantity even when planting. Do not use other forms of lime without expert advice.

Two inquiries are most commonly heard concerning peonies, first

why does a young plant fail to come up, and second, why does a plant fail to bloom. In these cases one or more of the following causes may be to blame:

1. Planting in wet, low, or heavily shaded ground.
2. Planting over three inches deep.
3. Mulching
4. Moving plants while growing in the spring.
5. Planting clumps.
6. Overfertilization.
7. Crowding by other plants or weeds.
8. Watering.

These precautions toward producing healthy roots are easily followed; in fact, they lessen the work of growing good peonies. With a minimum of care, anyone can keep a peony garden in perfect condition for twenty years.

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Their usual fine assortment of first-class Peonies, Irises and French Lilacs on their own roots.

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BRAND PEONY FARMS - FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA

During the last 15 years the following Brand Peonies have been awarded Best Flower in the National Show:

HANSINA BRAND, 1933, 1934, 1946.

MARTHA BULLOCH, 1940.

MRS. A. M. BRAND, 1943.

BLANCHE KING, 1941, 1947.

Other Court of Honor Awards

Best light pink: R. A. NAPIER, 1948; MYRTLE GENTRY, 1949, 1950, 1952.

Best medium pink: MYRTLE GENTRY, 1948; MARTHA BULLOCH, 1951.

Best dark pink: BLANCHE KING, 1948, 1949, 1951.

Best red: RUTH ELIZABETH, 1948, 1951.

Best white single: KRINKLED WHITE, 1948, 1949.

Best red single: PRES. LINCOLN, 1950.

New Members

We welcome into our fellowship the following new members:

H. G. Anderson, Windy Hill Farm, View Place Drive, Route 6, Box 367, Cincinnati 15, Ohio.

Charles Bailey, Route 1, Tamaroa, Ill.

Lawrence D. Baker, Kendallville, Ind.

C. H. Bollinger, 1648 South Locust Ave., Freeport, Ill.

Leo A. Burright, Route 2, Oregon, Ill.

Richard H. Clemmer, 656 Cherry Ave., Waynesboro, Va.

R. S. Crandall, 2215 Main St., Newton, Kan.

Pharon B. Denlinger, 4430 Salem Ave., Dayton 6, Ohio.

Mrs. Eileen L. Donohoe, Mill Race Farm, Box 381, Clinton, N.J.

Donald Eastman, 4926 Willow St., Seattle, Wash.

Mrs. Elizabeth Falk, Route 1, Plainfield, Ill.

Dr. Ethel R. Hankele, Box 22, Neshaming P. O., Penna.

Miss Mary J. Hart, 47-53 Ely St., Rochester 4, N. Y.

Frank A. Hodges, Jr., Skytop Drive, Scotch Plains, N. J.

Mrs. Laura E. Horton, Stafford, Kan.

Mrs. Wesley Ionson, Box 132, Clarkson, Ontario, Canada.

Neil W. Jantz, Route 1, Rosendale, Wis.

A. Hawkins Kidd, 4600 Blank Road, Sebastopol, Calif.

Charles H. Loomis, 2119 W. 50 Terrace, Kansas City 2, Mo.

William V. Machotka, 55th St. near 9th Ave., La Grange, Ill.

John Mayer, Taconic and Howard Roads, Greenwich, Conn.

Eugene V. Miller, 800 Burr Oak St., Albion, Mich.

Minnesota Peony and Iris Society, R. C. Schneider, Secretary, 708 Osceola Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn.

J. D. A. Morrow, Henry W. Oliver Bldg., Pittsburgh 22, Penna.

Peony Flower Club, Mrs. L. W. Kanin, Treasurer, 2901 North May Ave., Oklahoma City 7, Okla.

M. G. Perkins, 121 4th St., Bangor, Me.

Mr. and Mrs. Erny C. Pflieger, 88 W. Geranium St., St. Paul, Minn.

Dr. Jesse L. Pickard, Benton, Ill.

Mrs. C. Martin Rohe, Rt. 2, Leesburg, Ind.

F. A. Rohlf, 4025 G St., Lincoln, Neb.

Charles B. Rugg, 50 Federal St., Boston 10, Mass.

James Rutig, 45 W. 28th St., New York 1, N. Y.

W. Earl Teter, Desloge, Mo.

Mrs. Allen VanWyck, Country Club Road, Decatur, Ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene E. Walters, Box 451, The Laurels, Neptune, N. J.

Mrs. Elizabeth Webb, 1705 Warwood Ave., Wheeling, W. Va.

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Secretary's Notes

This issue of the Bulletin goes to press on September 5. We hope it will reach you well before the end of the month.

Occasionally we get reports from members that they have received an imperfect copy of the Bulletin. This occurs once in a while due to the fact that when the several sections are run through the folding machine one or two of one section may be left in the tray and get mixed with the next section. This may be overlooked in assembling and hence a faulty copy. When any one gets one of these, please let us know and a good one will be sent you at once, without charge of course. Do NOT return the faulty copy.

Many letters have been received from those who attended the Lake Mohawk Show expressing their appreciation of the beauty and success of the show. If any adverse criticism can be made of it, Mr. Massey well voices it in his article in this issue on publicity. Somebody slipped up along the line on this. Who was it? Possibly your secretary, possibly the Publicity Committee of the Show, possibly both. When issue after issue of the popular magazines came out in May with long lists of flower shows, meetings, etc., and no mention whatever of the show at Lake Mohawk, I was rather overwhelmed with shame and chagrin that the Peony had not received its share of this publicity. It should not happen again. We do need a good publicity committee. We also lost a lot of much needed publicity when no arrangements were made for pho-

tographs to be taken of the best flowers in the show. Several photographers came from New York to take pictures for various magazines of these flowers but were not allowed to do so for the good reason that to move the flowers would cause confusion and disruption of the show. Regardless of that fact we think that arrangements should be made in future shows to allow these pictures to be made. Really good pictures of individual flowers cannot be taken except under controlled lighting and that is not practical in the show room.

Some one has suggested that we should make our December Bulletin a record of the past season with our memories and conclusions drawn from them. This would mean stories from many members of their gardens, how the various varieties behaved, what they saw on their trips to shows and other gardens. So far we have few of these and they are published in this issue. We could make this December number a worthwhile record if our members would take the trouble to tell us these things. Many who have never seen them want to know about the new peonies, many want to know about the herbaceous hybrids, tree peonies and what to do with them to get good results. Let us know how these did in your garden. If you grow tree peonies, what varieties did best for you, did you have trouble with late frosts, how far South will they grow, how far North, what winter protection do they need, and there are many more questions along these lines

we should have answered. Can you help us: Then please do so. Do not put it off until next week. Do it now.

It is always a distasteful job to write letters reminding delinquent members of their back dues. Some write us letters of abuse when we do, saying we should know that they only intended their memberships to run one year and when they failed to send in a renewal they did not expect to continue. Then some write us the same sort of letters because we failed to send them a reminder the first day of January, saying that a busy person has no time to remember trivialities such as when their payments should be made to the Society, and that any well conducted business always sends out bills on time. Maybe so, but when members voluntarily remit and we think it should not be a difficult feat of memory to know that memberships in this Society ALL expire on December 31 each year except Life Members and those who have paid several years in advance and that the dues are payable on January 1 in advance for each year. If each member who owes dues would send them in without notice it would mean a considerable saving to the Society as it costs us about five cents in actual cash outlay for every notice sent to say nothing of the time it takes. Many will say, why five cents is nothing, but while that may be true for one notice yet when we multiply that five cents by hundreds the cost is a decidedly big item in our expense account. We are glad to say that two or three hundred of our busy members do save us this expense. We deeply appreciate their courtesy. There are now several hundred who have so far neglected to pay

their dues for this year. They have all been notified. If they would send them in at once it would save us time and money. If anyone does not wish to continue their membership (we hope all will continue it) please be so kind as to write us to that effect and save us the expense of another bill or two before we definitely know the fact. Some say we have no right to mail bulletins when dues have not been paid, that the Postal Laws and Regulations forbid it. This is not true as I read these laws. They say publications may be mailed at second class rates to all members who have either made a cash payment for their subscriptions or are obligated to pay. So long as anyone has not resigned from the Society he is obligated to pay and so we have the right to continue to mail the Bulletin until he resigns, and in addition he is lawfully obligated to pay all back dues until he does resign or is dropped by the Society from its rolls. We hope our membership will get these facts in their minds and act accordingly.

We note that Mr. Murawska has a sport of *Kelway's Glorious*. From the description given in Mr. Bill's article of this sport it sounds much like variations of this variety which often occur in my garden. They have come at intervals all through the thirty or more years I have been growing it. While the usual flower of this variety is one of great beauty, those on these "sports" are about as fine as flowers can be and it is due to the fact that they occur so often that I still like it best. These "sports" must have occurred often when *Kelway's Glorious* was new for we find in those days growers advertising they had a superior strain of

the flower and even the name of this superior strain was changed to *Glorious*. I have grown them all and invariably they were just the same as the original. Mr. Muraw-ska may find that his sport will bloom first one way and then the other. The "sport" with me had taller, stronger stems and the flower was a fourth or more larger with magnificent formation. If it could be fixed it would run any variety a race for best flower.

HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY

It is with considerable satisfaction that we can announce that the pre-publication orders for this book have amounted to nearly 15,000 copies. This has been due especially to three firms, Brand Peony Farms, Inc., Faribault, Minnesota, Charles Klehm & Son, Arlington Heights, Illinois, and Gilbert H. Wild and Son, Sarcoxie, Missouri, whose combined orders amount to ten thousand copies, thus making it possible for us to go ahead. Also our sincere thanks are due to the other fifty or more firms and individuals who have ordered lesser amounts. The only disappointment has been the comparatively few firms who wish a listing in the directory. We think they have passed up a good opportunity to get some good business at little cost as almost certainly orders from those who buy books and want to know sources of supply will go to the names listed.

We hope to get the book on the market in the fall. We cannot afford to print and carry a large stock of these on hand, so please send in your orders as soon as possible if you wish a copy or copies. Prices as given before: 25c each from 1 to 24; 20c, 25-49; 15c, 50-99, and 10c each 100 and over. Prices for fifty or more are f.o.b. shipping point. If anyone still

wishes these in quantities we may be able to accomodate them if orders are sent us IMMEDIATELY. We cannot promise. There will be only one press run and when that is sold out, there will be no more. Do not send postage stamps.

Department of Registration

The following varieties, whose names have been approved by the Nomenclature Committee, are presented for registration by the originators or owners as noted:

By *Myron D. Bigger*, 1147 Oakland Avenue, Topeka, Kansas.

CARRARA (Bigger, 1952). Japanese, Midseason, White. Seedling No. 59-37. Parentage not given. White buds, white guards, white stamens, edged with yellow, white pistils. Flower opens white and stays white. Good stems, medium height (36 in.).

MID-AMERICA (Bigger, 1952). Double. Midseason. Medium pink. Seedling No. 52-37. Parentage not given. Full rose type double. Smooth shade of medium pink with a slight lavender cast. Flower is cup shaped with a collar of white petals intermingled with or tipped with the major color of the flower. The center is a cup that tends to be white. Good cut flower. Keeps well in storage. Honorable Mention at Boston, 1947.

By *Gilbert H. Wild and Son*, Sarcoxie, Mo.

HIGHLIGHT (Auten-Wild, 1952). Double. Late midseason. Red. Auten Seedling No. 930. Parentage not given. Dark red of pleasing color, form and good substance. Medium height, good stems. A "highlight" in the garden.

MAY MORN (Nicholls 1952). Double. Midseason, Blush pink. Nicholls seedling No. 66. Parentage: *Mme. Calot* x Unknown. Full dou-

ble opening delicately tinted salmon pink, fading white in full sun. Tall, robust grower, prolific bloomer. Sister seedling of *Florence Nichols*. Good habit, nice foliage, strong stems, always opens well. If opened away from the sun the light salmon pink gives a bloom of extraordinary charm.

By *E. H. Lins*, Cologne, Minn.

MARCELLA (Lins, 1952). Double. Midseason. White. Seedling A-6-25. Parentage not given. High built medium sized bloom. Good stems of medium height. Dark green foliage. A good garden variety. American Home Achievement Medal, Minneapolis 1952.

By *Walter J. Guille, Inc.*, Syoset, New York.

MARIE ELIZABETH (Guille, 1950). Double. Midseason. Red, Seedling No. and parentage not given. Medium to large size double with

some stamens intermingled and a few yellow edged petalodes. Clear medium red. Good stems and foliage. American Home Achievement Medal, Lake Mohawk, 1952.

Let Us Hear From You

We wish to thank those who have written expressing their views on the last few bulletins. We shall do our best to give you good bulletins if you will send us good articles that are of interest to our members. Interest is keen in new cultural methods, how to control insects and diseases, how to treat tree peonies, how to grow peonies successfully in difficult locations, in short in anything out of the ordinary. Tell us your experiences. Owing to lack of space it is often impossible to publish all the articles I should like to in a certain issue.

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An increase in stock permits a reduction in price of my introductions.

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NOTE: My Japanese Iris list is now available.

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CARRARA - (Seedling No. 59-37). Japanese type; white bud, white guards, white staminodes, edged with yellow, white pistils. Flower opens white and stays white. A fine Jap on a good plant that grows to a height of about 36 inches **\$10.00 each**

MID-AMERICA (Seedling No. 52-37). Good full rose type double. The color is a smooth shade of medium pink with a slight lavender cast. The flower is cup-shaped with a collar of white petals intermingled with or tipped with the major color of the flower. The center is a cup that tends to be white. Good cut flower. Keeps well in storage. Honorable Mention at Boston, 1947 **\$10.00**

. . . Also Remember The Other Bigger Peonies . . .

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1953

For fall shipment we shall offer our usual assortment of fine peonies to which we shall add several new ones not before offered including **HIGHLIGHT**, one of Mr. Auten's new seedlings, a very distinctive red double; **MAY MORN**, Nicholls No. 66, a beautiful blush, a sister seedling of *Florence Nicholls*, and **PINK FORMAL**, Nicholls No. 877, a soft mauve pink, exquisite coloring.

For full description of these and other fall offerings of new Peonies see our 1952 color catalog. Catalog cannot be sent free of charge, as it actually costs us double the price we are asking. Send your 25c today for this beautiful catalog, containing over 60 pictures in a 60-page issue; the 25c fee will be deducted from your first order with us. Do not forget that *Ann Cousins* (Grand Champion in 1952 Greater Kansas City, Mo., Iris and Peony Show), *Doris Cooper* (Grand Champion at Minneapolis in 1951), *Pink o'Dawn* and many of the newest Nicholls' seedlings are listed for 1952 delivery.

— *Iris and Hemerocallis Being Shipped Now* —

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